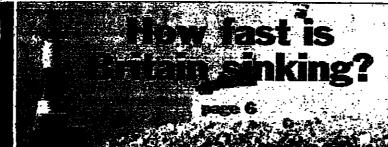


Good girl makes bad

page 34



Collect and re FREE BOOK FOR SCHOOLS

TOKEN AND DETAILS

No cash for those who refuse jobs

'Workfare' testing for state benefits

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALL benefit claimants, including the disabled and lone parents, will be denied any State help unless they attend job interviews under radical reforms to be announced by the Government

today.

All claimants of working age, except the disabled and lone parents, will then have to take up a iob offer or face losing their entire benefit under proposals that take Britain a step closer to the American

David Blunkett, the Educa- ... tion Secretary, and Alistair Darling, the Social Security for getting benefit." Secretary, will today an-nounce an £80 million proamme to test the scheme in 12 pilot studies across the country. Four of the trials will be un by private firms to assess: otential administrative say

covering about 450,000 people over three years, but the Welfare Reform Bill, announced in The Oueen's Speech, will include measures to allow the Government to set up a nationwide compulsory scheme with-

All potential claimants who attend interviews will have their own personal adviser under the "single gateway" scheme who will assess their entitlement to the whole range of benefits including housing enefit, income support and isability benefits.

Ministers, bracing them-selves for an internal party backlash, have until now been cautious about the extent of benefit penalties. But yesterday Whitehall sources disclosed that no payments would be made unless people

turned up for a job interview. The twin aim is to reduce dependency on the State for all those capable of work and to cut down on benefit fraud

Work for those who can and security for those who cansource last night. "The interview will be a pre-condition

The source denied that the Government was considering compelling the disabled and lone parents to take up jobs but suggested that the proposals could be extended to re-

backlash against Mr Dar-ling's proposals to restrict disability benefits, including more rigorous medical tests for those claiming incapacity benefit, and curbs on widows' benefits, which are also contained

In addition the Social Security Department angered the Royal British Legion-yester-day by announcing that if would not repeal Conservative cutbacks to payments given to deaf servicemen, although Labour had attacked this in Op-

position. A spokeswoman said that the Government was following medical advice, after an 18 month review, that deterioration of hearing when peo-ple got older could not be attributed to injury suffered in

> nounced by the Government for the single gateway scheme will be spent on recruiting and training personal advisers.

Four pilots will start in April in Essex. Warwickshire, Civile Coast and Renfrew, and Lea Roding -- covering East London. The remainder will be set up from next November. The privately managed pilots will cover Suffolk, Leeds, North Cheshire and North Nottinghamshire, and four other Government trials will run in Somerset, Gwent Borders, Calderdale and Kirklees and Buck-

Education officials stressed lieved to be anticipating a that there would be exemptions for the recently bereaved and those who are severely disabled and cannot turn up for an interview.

Whitehall sources said the argument for compelling people to attend interviews followed evidence that voluntary pilots had failed to attract claimants.

"Once people do turn up for an interview, however, many of them go on to get a job." said one source.

Leading article, page 19



Sarah Flannery, 16, who baffled the judges with her grasp of cryptography. They described her work as "brilliant"

Teenager cracks e-mail code

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN Irish schoolgirl was yesterday hailed as a mathematical genius after devising a code for sending secret messages by computer.

Sarah Flannery used the science of cryptography to design a code that is ten times faster than the one currently used to convert confidential information so that it can be sent via the Internet and e-mail. She has been inundated with offers of jobs and scholarships from international computer companies and universities. Miss Flannery, 16, from

Blarney, Co Cork, used matrices to formulate an alternative to RSA, the current data protection code, devised by three students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977. The result is an algorithm, a mathematical blueprint, that is far faster than the RSA and equally secure.

Miss Flannery, whose father. David, lectures in mathematics at Cork Institute of Technology, devised her code to enter the Irish Young Scientists and Technology Exhibition. She won at the weekend

and left the judges unable fully to comprehend her project. They described her work as "brilliant" and one judge advised her to patent it.

Miss Flannery said she was thrilled. "I had to go through lots of stuff before I finalised the theory," she said. "I reached critical points where I would get stuck for three weeks or so. I just kept thinking about it and then the whole thing slipped into place." The oldest of five children, she earned eight As in her junior certificate, the Irish

equivalent of GCSEs, with extra tuition from her father. Miss Flannery is now decid-

ing what to do with her new code, the Cayley-Purser. named after Arthur Cayley, an eminent 19th-century Cambridge mathematician, and Michael Purser, a cryptographer who inspired her. She considering publishing her findings rather than patenting as she does not want people to pay for her discovery. She will represent Ireland at

the EU Science Contest in Greece in September.

Freetown burns as rebels slaughter hundreds

FROM SAM KILEY IN FREETOWN

HUNDREDS of Ukrainian mercenaries are fighting alongside Sierra Leone's rebels who yesterday made good on their promise to burn Freetown, the capital, to the ground and torched the power station, post office, town hall and United Nations headquar-

West African peacekeepers continued to try to drive the rebels from the centre of the city, and claimed that they were conducting "mopping up operations". But yesterday afternoon, the city was in

Huge columns of smoke billowed as the last of the once elegant Creole architecture of the freed slave colony were set alight, along with colonial era

government buildings. Hundreds of bodies, many of them victims of summary ex-ecution by the rebels led by Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie, lav rotting in the streets while the the Red Cross struggled to get medical supplies in.
The situation is extremely

dangerous. It changes from moment to another, and the rebels have totally changed. This time around they are using clever infiltradent of Freetown desperately waiting for a helicopter to evacuate him from the western fringes which are under control of Nigerian-led forces.

The Ukrainians have not yet been seen in Freetown. But sources independent of the Ecomog (West African) soldiersaid about 300 Ukrainians were spotted in Makeni, 100 miles from the capital which fell to the rebels two weeks ago, and they were camou-flaged with black cream.

Secret link', page 14

New sentences for burglars

Jack Straw brought in the Tories' plans for automatic minimum sentences for three time giar could be in jail for just 16 months with automatic remission and early release on cur-

Trade war threat a global trade war came clos-when America failed to re-solve a dispute with Europe TIC! 20% over banana imports and threatened sanctions on Japan over steel Page 23

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Yemeni kidnap leader 'faces death penalty'

By Daniel McGrory in Aden and Stephen Farrell

nap gang which abducted 16 Western tourists in a desert ambush is to go on trial for his life today in a high-security Yemeni court:

The bereaved families of three Britons killed during a shootout with security forces are likely to be asked if they wish to spare Abu Hassan's As the surviving hostages rather for the cremation of one

of the victims, Margaret Whitehouse, 52, Mr Hassan is also being accused of training and arming five Britons being held for allegedly plotting to bomb an international hotel and the British Consulate. who collapsed in the 1954 Em-The Yemenis claim that four days after the Britons were arcouver, has died aged 80. As he started the final lap he led rested in police raids, Mr Has-

party to barter for the release of those jailed in Aden. The lawyer for the five Britons, Salim Basunaid, said last

san, 28, ambushed the tour

night: "My fear is that Abu Hassan's trial will incriminate my clients and yet they still have not been charged let alone had a chance to explain

why they were in Aden.' Mr Basunaid has still not been allowed to see the five but has been handed police files which claim the men confessed to meeting Mr Hassan at his terrorist camp where they were given TNT explosives and weapons. The lawyer insists these confessions

were made under torture. Scotland Yard is still investigating claims the five were sent on their bombing mission by the London-based Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza, whose extremist Supporters of Shariah group runs a website depicting a hand grenade and advertising military training cours-

The Yard has joined forces with the FBI to explore suggest ed links between SQS and the

wanted terrorist billionaire. Osama bin Laden. Security sources claim that Bin Laden. who is hiding in Afghanistan, has helped fund the Londonbased SOS. They also believe four of those being held in the Central Security Headquar-ters in Aden are personally linked to the cleric, including Mohsen Ghailan, who alleged ly confessed to receiving \$2,000 (£1,200) from SOS to

take part in this operation. Legal sources in Yemen said Mr Hassan and two others captured in the bungled rescue are certain to face the death penalty if found guilty which, under a new law, is mandato-

ry for kidnapping. Last night Mr Whitehouse, 54, from Hook, Hampshire, was unable to discuss whether he would call for the death penalty or "blood money" to pardon Mr Hassan.



worse — we might have ended up in Ashworth"

Reprieve for Ashworth

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, decided to keep Ashworth Special Hospital in Merseyside open despite a damning public inquiry report on the hospital at the centre of a paedophilia and por-

nography scandal.
Inquiry members and mental health groups immediately criticised the move. The charity Mind felt he had ducked a "brave challenge"....... Page 2

Software stops pupils seeing Net porn

By JOHN O'LEARY **EDUCATION EDITOR**

Marathon hero

Jim Peters dies

Jim Peters, the British runner

by more than three miles, but

despite a valiant struggle, he never crossed the finishing

SCHOOLS are to be offered a powerful screening system developed by Ameri-can space scientists which blocks pupils access to internet pornography even in otherwise innocent documents and e-mail messages.

The software, being launched today ar an educational technology exhibition, is used widely in the United States, where it spared teachers the embarrassment of answering ques - Tony Blair wants all 32,000 British tions on the more salacious sections of schools to be connected to the World

While most school filtering devices allowed pupils access to the full report, published on recognised sites such as that of the White House, those using URLahs' I-Gear package found descriptions of his sexual encounters censored.

ICL, the British computer company, will launch a new version of the package, which includes e-mail screening, af Olympia in London this morning. It is already in use in some Scottish schools and will be installed in all Hertfordshire state schools this spring. - Tony Blair wants all 32,000 British

development of a National Grid for Learning. But concerns about Internet pornography and undesirable e-mail traffic have dissuaded many schools from making use of the technology.

Most British schools use filters to block access to sites known to contain unsuitable material. The software will enable them to set their own censor-

Dan Sydow, who developed the software after more than ten years' working for the Nasa space agency, said: "The programme is particularly the Starr Report on President Clinton. Wide Web by 2002, and the Govern-powerful because it looks at the context

ment is pouring millions into the as well as the words used. The inclusion of e-mail is important because schools have intercepted everything from bomb-making instructions to messages from stalkers."

Mr Sydow added: "Sexually explicit or violent material is what most schools are concerned about, but some users might want to block access to Internet shopping."

Internet filtering has become big business in America; it was worth more than \$14 million (£8.5 million) in 1997. In Britain the new package will cost about £1,000 a school, but it is being bought mainly by local authorities.

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FIRST TELECON EASY PHONE RATES TO MOBILE PHONES ARE APPLICABLE

TO THE 28TH FEBRUARY 1989. EASY PHONE RATES ARE CHARGED PER



Alan (oren 'He's a strange cove,



Simon Tenkins The key to this week's Blair relaunch is the lack of anything to say'



Bronnen Nuddon 'Like him or not, the tangoing President is amazing'





Britain's leading economic visionary turns his gaze Anatole

Kaletsky

Morose visage lets old Labour flavour flood out

his week John Prescott has the air of a cat who has swallowed a canary. To call him cheerful would overstate. Joy is not in the Deputy Prime Minister's repertoire the facial muscles just aren't there. But his is the merriest scowl in Westmin-

When he's at the dispatch box the Government's whole nature seems to change. New Labour terminology vanishes like a morning mist. Nobody speaks of "the Project". Nobody's nice about Liberal Democrats. The world of old Labour comes flooding back like daylight after the strobes and fluorescence of a 1990s

THE Health Secretary, Frank

Dobson, yesterday reprieved the secure hospital at the cen-

tre of a paedophilia and por-

nography scandal, despite the

The decision to keep Ash-worth Special Hospital in

Merseyside open despite

strong recommendations to

close it brought immediate

findings of a public inquiry.

purple dream. Mr Prescott was flanked by his favourite ministers. Michael Meacher: an earnest, intense, kindly leftwinger; Glenda Jackson, an austere socialist, straight and harsh; and Alan Meale, real-ale old Labour from the Nottinghamshire coalfields. Between them these three have carried Labour's Commons banner for some 40 years. Their constituencies - Oldham, Hampstead & Highgate, and Mansfield - could form the cultural tripod on which old Labour once stood.

When Prescott's taking

Ouestions even the faces be-

hind seem to change. So few

seem to be on-message for the

Project. Does Prescott draw a different audience - or is our eye drawn to a usually camouflaged gang? Surprising how many of them there are. I looked along the Government backbenches yesterday during Questions on Environment. Transport and the Regions

(Prescott's domain). Where were these new Labour groupies about whom we all write? There was Dennis Skinner (66) in his usual place - the

Beast of Bolsover - flanked

by Terry Lewis (63) - the Beast of Worsley, and Ronnie Campbell (55), the rowdy Geordie former Scargillite. No thirtysomething modernisers these. Beside them, John Cryer is thirtysomething — and as fiery and hard-edged a Leftie as his late father. Another thirtysomething, leftwinger Mar-

MATTHEW PAREIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

entertainingly off-message. There was Gordon Prentice (Pendle, 47) for the hardish Left, Peter Pike (Burnley, 61).

ia Eagle, a few yards away, is

ideology-free old Labour, Ann Clwyd (Cynon Valley), a 61-year old campaigner and rebel in the radical cause, and David Winnick (Walsall N. 65), a iong-time leftish libertarian. Bearded like an Old Testament prophet, Andrew Bennett (Denton & Reddish, 59) has led many a ramblers' protest. Another beard was Bill Michie's (Sheffield Heeley, 63), a veteran leftwinger who

Elections Bill. Was Gwynneth Dunwoody (Crewe & Nantwich, 69), re-uphostered in orange and brown for 1999, new Labour? Mrs Dunwoody is of the brave, overlooked, old Labour Right.

voted against the European

der-Lyne, 75), former minister and planner, new Labour? All. were there.

And alongside, the dispossessed. Some quite young, like Nigel Griffiths (Edinburgh S). whose Brownite allegiance when a minister was not enough to save him from Blair's axe: some surely bittet. like former Public Service Minister David Clarke (S Shields, 59), whose Freedom of Information Bill has just suffered another amputation. With every reshuffle the numbers who have lost hope, or

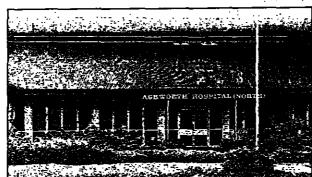
gained a grievance, grow. Labour has a huge majori-. ty. Within Labour, however,

new Labour does not; and old Labour is bigger than Mr Blair's majority. Those from whom these examples are taken do not hang together as a gang they are unrelated does they do not comprise a picture. But they could. With John Prescott setting the tone yesterday — Gestalt! It was momentarily possible to join up the dots. There are hunEmo

Junior minister Hilary Armstrong muddled her words yesterday, turning capping crite-ria into crapping criteria and narrowly avoiding disaster with crude and universal capping'. Prescott almost grinned Something's cheered him up.

Dobson rejects call to close Ashworth

By Mark Henderson and Russell Jenkins



Pornography was available in a unit at Ashworth

criticism from inquiry mem-bers and mental health Professor Brian Edwards, a panellist, said: "The panel quite frankly disapprove of the decision." Michael Howlett of the Zito Trust said poses". It advised Mr Dobson it was "deeply disappointing". Peter Fallon QC, the in-quiry chair, said Mr Dobson would have only himself to blame if there were further

scandals at the hospital. "If they don't do something about the shape and nature of Ashworth they will certainly in our judgment have missed the boat," he said.

If they keep to the structure as it is currently the problems will return."

The inquiry's 473-page report, published yesterday, found evidence that pornography was freely available in Ashworth's Personality Disorder Unit, and that convicted sex offenders were allowed to play unsupervised with a girl aged eight who was being groomed for paedophile pur-

to shut down the "dy.functional" hospital "at the earliest opportunity" as it could not "flourish under any manage-ment", and called for a network of small regional secure units to replace Ashworth and the other special hospitals at Rampton in Nottinghamshire

and Broadmoor in Berkshire.

Mr Dobson accepted that there had been a "catalogue of disasters" at Ashworth but insisted it must remain open.

"The three special hospitals must continue to be the main providers of high security services," he said. "I do not believe the problem at Ashworth is in the bricks and mortar. The problem is management and that is what we are determined-to tackle.

Ashworth would make a

"fresh start" with improved se curity costing £1.5 million and fewer perks for patients, he said. Visits by children will be banned in all but special cas-

Peter Clarke, Ashworth's acting chief executive, said the hospital had already confiscated computers, banned cash and stopped child visits.

The inquiry was set up in 1997 after serious allegations were made by Stephen Daggett, a convicted sex offender who absconded to blow the whistle on failings at .Ashworth. His claims that pornog-raphy, alcohol and drugs were freely available and that patients might be abusing visiting children were found to

be "largely accurate". Attitudes to security was "farcical", and managers at Ashworth and the Special Hospital Service Adminstration repeatedly ignored, cov-ered up or failed to prevent in-

competence and failings. Paul Lever, chairman of Ashworth Hospital Authority, and Anne-Marie Nelson, chairman of the SHSA, were urged to resign and both stepped down yesterday. A further four unnamed members of staff may be sacked in light of the report, Mr Clarke

Eight other managers and staff who had already resigned, retired or been sacked were criticised in similar terms, including the former chief executive of Ashworth, Janice Miles.

Charles Kaye, former chief executive of the SHSA, Pamela Taylor, former head of medical services at the SHSA, Colin Dale, former Executive Nurse Director, and Mark Stowell-Smith, a senior social worker blamed for the child's unsupervised visits, were also held accountable.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary over the peri-od considered, is also reproached for introducing liberal reforms in special hospitals too hastily in response to the 1993 Blom-Cooper report. The inquiry's 58 recommen-

untreatable personality disor-

lease would have to prove they dations also included a proposal to treat offenders with no longer posed a danger to



ders as common criminals and imprisoned rather than held with the mentally ill. It called for "reviewable sentences" for such criminals, undef which prisoners due for re-

the public. They should be

held in special units. The Fallon report revealed a security regime in Ashworth's Personality Disorder Unit so lax that it became "a place where normal rules did not apply". Convicted sex offenders were allowed easy access to

Whistle blower now feels vindicated

THE Ashworth patient who revealed the astonishing events at its Personality Disorder Unit, yesterday spoke of his "vindication" by the Fallon report (Mark Henderson writes),

Stephen Daggett, 38, has been held at Rampton since he absconded from Ashworth on a supervised shopping trip in 1996. He eventually gave himself up to police after trav-elling to Belgium, and told them he had run away to draw attention to appalling lapses at the hospital

He wrote a document entitied "My Concerns", spelling out allegations of paedo philia, pornegraphy, security faitures and drug abuse that has been accepted almost in its entirety by the Fallon in-quiry. His claims were passed to ministers by his parents' MP Alice Mahon, leading Stephen Dorrell, the then Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell, to set up the inquiry, He said: "Today does not

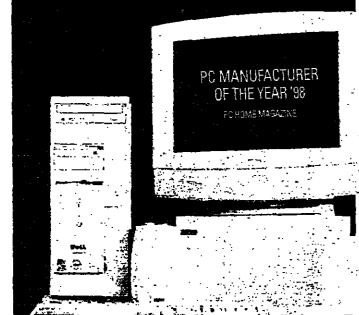
make me happy but certainly I feel vindicated for doing what I did. I do not expect to be thanked for what I did. "At first I was ridiculed because people simply could not get their head around what I. was telling them. I only hope the authorities can now allow

Daggett was convicted in 1986 of three indecent assaults against young girls.

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TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE

Three years for repeat burglars

matic three-year jail term under sentencing proposals announced yesterday will serve just six months longer than the current average sentence for burglary.

With automatic remission and early release on curfew, a burglar given the three-year minimum could be in jail for just 16 months when the proposal becomes effective in 2001. The new sentence was announced in spite of opposition from the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and other senior judges who argue that automatic sentenc-

es fetter judicial discretion. Jack Straw's decision to bring in the Conservative Government's plan for automatic minimum sentences for threetime domestic burglars was so sudden that the Prison Service only knew about it last week. Officials from the Home Of-lice contacted the service towards the end of the week asking what the implications

BURGLARS given an auto- would be for the prison popula-

The Home Secretary's adoption of his predecessor's proposal was seen by penal reform groups as a panic meas-ure and part of the Government's attempted relaunch after the disarray over Christmas. Lord Hurd of Westwell the chairman of the Prison Reform Trust and former Home Secretary, said he did not support the change: "I think this is strength through unity week. He has been told to find something tough."

But last night Mr Straw said that after figures in October showed a change in the projected prison population he had asked for work to be put in hand for implementing the sentences. He said: "The deci-

sion had been taken in my head well before Christmas." At present the average sentence for a third-time burglar is approximately two years, meaning they are out after 12

Blair denies editor worked for MI6

By A CORRESPONDENT

DOMINIC LAWSON, the editor of The Sunday Telegraph who has rejected claims that he might be an M16 agent, has never been employed by the Government, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Mr Blair also dismissed suggestions that Mr Lawson had been paid by the Government or "anyone acting on its behalf into a bank or banks.

The denials follow Labour MP Brian Sedgemore's use of parliamentary privilege in the Commons last month to name Mr Lawson as the subject of allegations by former spy Richard Tomlinson. Mr Tomlinson had claimed in earlier newspaper reports that Mi6 had recruited a senior Fleet

Street figure. Mr Lawson issued a brief statement at the time stressing: "I am not and never have been an agent, either paid or

هڪدامن ريامل.

unpaid, of Mi6 or any other Government agency."
But in parliamentary ques-

tions tabled today, Labour backbencher George Gallo-way asked Mr Blair: "If you will list the capacities in which Mr Lawson has been em-ployed by the Government or any agency acting on its be-

He also asked: "What public funds have been paid by the Government or anyone acting on its behalf into a bank or banks to Mr Lawson." Mr Blair's tabled reply was

simple. "None." he said. During pre-Christmas debates in the Commons last month, Mr Sedgemore named Mr Lawson. "I would hope we would have some time between now and Christmas to look at the claim that Dominic Lawson has been recruited as a paid MI6 agent," he said.

Lawrence charges

A police officer in the Stephen Lawrence inquiry is to face seven charges of neglect of duty after the bungled hunt for the killers of the black student, but four other senior officers have escaped similar serious charges because they have retired from the Metropolitan Police. The Police Complaints Authority recommended bringing the charges against Detective Inspector Ben Bullock, second in command of the investigation, after an inquiry into how the Metropolitan Police dealt with the case. The authority also criticised the lack of first aid treatment offered to Stephen. aged 18, as he lay dying after being stabbed in Eliham, southeast London. Mr Bullock will deny the charges.

Air crash inquiry

The British and Irish Governments are to re-open the case of the Aer Lingus aircraft that crashed off the Irish coast in 1968 with the loss of 61 lives. Relatives claim that the Viscount aircraft was shot down by a missile or a pilotless aircraft, and are campaigning for a full explanation. The British Government has repeatedly denied any involvement. However, experts from the Ministry of Defence and the Irish Department of Transport are to re-examine the files.

Viagra on NHS threat

Doctors have warned the Government they will start pre-scribing Viagra on the NHS within the next ten days unless they get clear advice about when it can be used. The British Medical Association's GPs committee meets on January 21 and John Chisholm, the chairman, said yesterday that members would then advise doctors to defy the cur-rent ban on prescribing the drug if they had not been given guidelines on its use by that time.

TV licence review

The future of the television licence fee is to be reviewed by a task force chaired by Gavyn Davies, the chief international economist for Goldman Sachs. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said the panel would look into proposals to offer concessionary licence fees and to allow the BBC to raise more revenue from commercial activity. His department denied reports that old age pensioners would be given free television licences financed by a 10p levy on video rentals.

Police suspend worker

A civilian police worker has been suspended after giving a handgun, 150 live bullets and a bag of drugs to a member of the public. The items had been seized during a raid in Tyneside last week in which one man was arrested. They were being held as potential evidence but when a man walked into South Shields police station and said that he had come to collect them, the worker handed them over. An internal investigation has been launched.

Advert criticised

The Times has been criticised by the Advertising Standards Authority for using an advertisement which featured a picture of a woman in a bikim fied to a wooden cross. The advertisement, for a six part photographic series in The Sunday Times Magazine on the work of photographer Terry O.Neill, was the subject of 140 complaints from readers who protested that it was "tasteless, provocative and blasphemous to Christians."

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Emotional plea by foster girls couple

Runaways send letter pleading 'Let us be a family,' reports Alex O'Connell

THE couple on the run with their foster daughters have written an emotional letter from an unknown address pleading to be allowed to

in a letter sent to Anglia Tele-vision, Jeff and Jennifer Bramley urged police and social services to let them live as a

family with the two girls. The letter was handwritten in blue ink on lined paper and exted first class on Monday

The couple left their home at Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, with Jade Bennett, 5, and her sister Hannah, 3, in September. The Bramleys, who have looked after the girls since March, fied in the belief that the children would be taken vay from them by Cam-

Mr Bramley, a Royal Mail worker in Peterborough, told his office he was not coming to work because he was ill. The couple wrote: "We Jeff,

Jenny. Jade and Hannah write this letter to tell the plight of a family that love each other

"Jade and Hannah were told about us and told we would be their forever Mummy and Daddy, after we had mer the girls several times in their foster home, they came to ive with us. They soon grew to them as our daughters. Jade and Hannah were looking forward to their new lives with

The couple, who plead for understanding, write: "We are two good, honest, caring people who are willing to give up our home, our family and friends and jobs to maintain lade and Hannah's happiness in keeping them with the par-ents they love and desperately

want to share their lives with. We want the voices of our approved to be Jade and Hannah's new Mummy and Daddy, they were placed with us for us to adopt. It is misleading to call us foster parents.

rything was fine until one day they said we were too safety cious by saying 'no' and don't too often. The children have been

told by Social Services that they are to move on to another forever Mummy and Daddy." In the letter the Bramleys say how Jade, who liked dancng, was very much looking forward to going to school. Hannah, the couple write, has enjoyed sessions at playgroup and was looking forward to go-

ing regularly.

Jade and Hannah have cried, saying they love us and don't want to live with anyone else and that if anyone comes to take them away they will



and Hannah are two bright, inwho love us with all their hearts. We ask therefore, will someone help us to be legally their Mummy and Daddy forever, making the hopes and dreams of these two wonderful girls come true?

ه کوزامن رائیمل

The letter is unsigned Police, who held back five paragraphs of the full letter for their investigations, are taking the communication seriously because it contains information only the Bramleys would know. Copies of the letter were also sent to The Express news-

paper and a local paper.

Although Cambridgeshire social services said that they did not think that the couple would harm the children, they were concerned because they believed the Bramleys were

nunt for the Bramleys intensified after a potential sighting of the couple on the North Yorkshire Railway between Pickering and Grosmont. A vicar told police of how he spotted a girl he thought was Jade

The Rev Jack Cooper said at the time: The children were a nuisance and disturbing passengers. The parents made no attempt to stop them." The couple's car was found



Imran says wife will fight 'fake' charge

JEMIMA KHAN has been charged in Pakistan with illegaily exporting hundreds of antique tiles after the confiscation of a Christmas gift to her mother by customs officers.

Mrs Khan, who has not been arrested and is currently

Yesterday her husband, Imran Khan, the former cricketr, who formed Pakistan's Movement for Justice party, accused the Government of po-litical victimisation. The case

is fake," said Mr Khan. 46. "I will file a defamation case against the customs department, which has become a tool in the hands of the Government in victimising politi-

Mrs Khan, 24, daughter of the late Sir James Goldsmith, had sent the 397 tiles to her mother in December when toms officials. She said that the shipment, which she had bought in a market in Islama bad, was lawful because she had a receipt stating that the tiles were less than 50 years old.

Customs officials said that they had referred the tiles to the local archaeological de-partment which had declared that they were "of paramount archaeological interest and belonged to the Islamic era" They claim the tiles were originally stolen from an archaeo

Blackmailer 'bled banker of £500,000°

dymoor, near Crook, Co Dur-

ham, denies blackmail. Mr Woodcock, who de-

scribed Mr X as a man thor-

oughly respected in his com-munity, said. It started in 1978

when Mr X answered an ad-

vert in a newspaper for porno-

graphic videos. Mr X bought a couple of them but nothing

happened until he decided to

buy some more from the same

"He then met Mr Crossling."

Crossling asked him for a loan

of money, saying he was going

to start a company selling porn videos to coach compa-nies. Mr X was content to lend

the money, but Crossling, de-

tecting the ease which a virtu-

al stranger had handed over

cash, realised what an easy

touch he was."

A BLACKMAILER bled a shy. respected country bank man-ager of almost £500,000 over nearly 20 years through threats to tell his wife about the time he bought a set of postold yesterday.

By the time Brian Crossling was arrested in July 1997, he had allegedly taken £449,500 from his victim. Over the years the manager, now aged nearly 70 and retired, had sold his luxury house for a smaller one, remortgaged that, cashed in his wife's investments and lied to friends to get money for Crossling, the court was told.

The manager, identified to Newcastle Crown Court yesterday only as Mr.X, also handed over a £92,000 lump sum that the received when he took early remement in the mid 1980s, and ran up a £42,000 overdraft. He even contemplated suicide to escape Crossling's in-

cessant demands. His secret eventually came out in June 1997, when he was arrested by detectives investigating claims that he was trying to defraud his friends. Under questioning. Mr X claimed that Crossling had goaded him by saying the money had been used to set up a company dealing in pornographic vide-

os and to buy drugs.
Robert Woodcock, prosecuting, said that Crossling.
Lived alone in a house he owned himself. He had no other means of support. When police searched his house they found £73,000 in cash under the kitchen sink and he had also salted away in building so-ciety accounts £250,000. We say none of this was lawfully his." Crossling, 40, from Rod-

attacked with glass

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

20 stitches

for nurse

A NURSE who needed more than 20 stitches after a patient attacked her with a broken mirror in a hospital ward has vowed to return to work. Roz Hanson, 30 and a nurse for seven years, said yesterday; Things like this come with the job. I'll be back at work within a few days."

The mother of one was close to tears as she described how she thought she would die as the patient turned violent as she treated him for a minor cut to his arm on the casualty ward at Kings Mill Hospital, Sutton in Ashfield, Notting-

hamshire.
"The attack has not changed my view of nursing. He was ill and I could have come across him at any time. I am a lot better now, but it was very frightening at the time.

Mr Woodcock said that Mr "Occasionally we have episodes that occur, spontaneous X eventually turned to friends for help. One gave him £40,000 in 1994, £21,000 in outbursts that might cause con-cern, but generally I feel safe 1995 and £10,000 in 1997. An to come to work. It occurs with elderly lady gave him four sums totalling £63,000 in 1997 after Mr X daimed he needed the job because of the nature of the patients we look after. It is difficult to predict situations."

urgent medical treatment.
In court Mr X said: The pressure began at the start when I bought the videos as I The patient broke furniture and smashed a mirror before attacking Mrs Hanson with pieces of broken glass. He did not want him to tell my plunged a shard into her arm before stabbing her in the back as she tried to fiee. wife. I also didn't want him to He was overpowered by a

tell my wife he was a big-time drug dealer and police inform-ant in Blackpool. He would male nurse and a female colsay Would you like me to tell league who held him until poyour wife about this? It was a lice arrived. Mrs Hanson was term of blackmail." taken to the hospital's accident and emergency department where she needed 18 striches to Mr X said that he had borrowed more than £220,000 from friend and relatives. her back and five to her arm. "Most of it was because of pres-□A 29-year-old man was yesterday remanded in custody by Mansfield magistrates ac-cused of causing Mrs Hanson grievous bodily harm. sure from Mr Crossing, I would not have loaned him any otherwise." he said.

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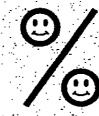
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Port admits liability for Milford Haven oil spill

BY SIMON DE BRUXEÎLES

A PORT authority yesterday admitted liability an oil spill that contaminated 120 miles of Weish coast

The oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground at the entrance to the Milford Haven estuary in west Wales while under the control of an inexperienced pi-

lot three years ago. More than 72,000 tonnes of crude oil leaked from the ves-

ford Haven and the south west . Wales coast" at a hearing at Cardiff Crown Court. The pen- sidered John Pearn, a class

alty under the Water Resourc-

es Act is an unlimited fine. The court was told that the clean-up operation cost including compensation for losses sustained by the fishing and tourism industries, is likely to exceed £100 million.

Michael Hill, QC, prosecuting, said that the Sea Empress. carrying 130,000 tonnes of North Sea crude to a refinery,

sels' tanks, killing thousands in North Sea crude to a refinery, of sea birds, seats and other was significantly bigger physmatine creatures. Fishing and trally anapter deadweight tontourism in the region were last badly affected. In March 1991 the port and Milford Haven Port Anthonity had dropped a requirement of the process pleaded guilty to sels below 150,000 tonnes. At causing polluting matter to 147,000 tonnes, the Sea Empress just escaped classification. tion as a "Very Large Crude Carrier" and the authority con-

two pilot, to be qualified to guide the Sea Empress into port on his own. Cardiff Crown Court heard.

that entering Milford Haven is potentally dangerous due to its narrow entrance, strong tides and weather patterns. Mr Hill said: The entrance

requires careful navigation by

a sufficiently trained and expenenced pilot. Mr Pearn had never before attempted to bring in alone a vessel comparable in size to the Sea Em-press so clase to low water." The court was told that the port authority had agreed to

pay the legal costs of the Environment Agency, which brought the prosecution, of 5825,000. Mr Hill called for maximum financial penalities' because of the scale of the

1. More reliable...

Reliable éasyjet beats big carriès its customers rating it excellent for inflight service (59 per cent) and for easylet is regarded a more reli-

able service by business travellers than major carriers such as British Airways, British Midland and KLM according to a new survey by-Company Barclaycard, Stanley Slanghter writes.

Although these three leading airlines were the most used by U.K. business travellers, their regular fliers gave them the lowest mark for reliability.

While a third of easyJet regulars said its reliability was excellent, the corresponding figures for British Midland. KLM and BA from their regulars we

quality of food (59 per cent). The respective figures for BA in these calegories were 17 per cent, live and five.

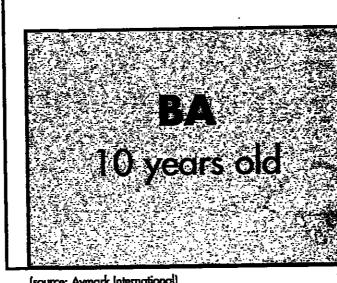
Heavy bitters such as BA and KLM were also given further cause to worry with a majority of business travellers. saying smaller airlines give better serv ice and quality:

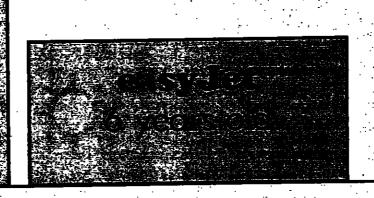
In last year's survey, 53 per cent se big ardines gave better service, with only 40 per cent plumping for the sun players. But this year the figures t exactly reversed.

The Daily Telegraph 18/11/98 Pg 35.

2. with a more modern fleet.

Average age of aircraft



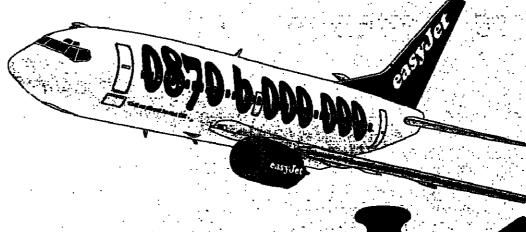


(source: Avmark International)

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Second radical group is linked to mosque

THE London mosque at the centre of international police investigations into a plot to bomb British targets in Yemen has become a magnet for radical groups.

It emerged yesterday that a second Muslim organisation that endorses violence has strong links with the Finsbury

Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, whose group, Al Muhajiroun, believes in resistance by Muslims against the United States and Britain, is a former leader of the mosque. Its current leader. Abu Hamza, a close friend of Sheikh Bakri, runs his own extreme organisa-tion, Supporters of Shariah. from the building. Abu Hamza is being monitored by several intelligence agencies.

Sheikh Bakri said yesterday that he had taught four of the young British Muslims arrested in Yemen for allegedly plot-ting to bomb British targets. He also said money raised at the mosque was used to fund "legal resistance" by Muslim groups in Kashmir, Palestine, Kosovo and Bosnia.

According to Sheikh Bakri, Mr Harnza, who lost his hands and the sight in one eye while fighting in Afghanistan, receives a disability allowance from the British Government.

Up to 1,000 people are said to attend weekly prayers led by Mr Harnza, after which donations are made. It is not uncommon for Muslim businessmen to make single donations of £5,000 to their local mosques. More money is raised during Ramadan, when worshippers pay an additional £3 per family member to the mosque. Those with savings of more than £750 must pay 2.5 per cent of their total to charity. Asked if any money went to fund opposition to the

Leader advocates resistance against Britain, report Adrian Lee, Stephen Farrell and Dominic Kennedy

One senior Muslim academ-

that camps, involving military

at other mosques in Britain.

United States. Sheikh Bakri Muhajiroun and he had not adsaid: "It is up to Abu Hamza

Sheikh Bakri, 40, visited the Finsbury mosque last week to attend a prayer night. His group, Al Muhaproun, which campaigns for a single Muslim state, lists one of its aims as demonstrating "against the British authority" and the policies of the British Government." It states on its website: "British man-made law is war against God ... Islam will dominate the whole world."

In the past Sheikh Bakri has made outspoken attacks on homosexuals, claimed that the Holocaust was a fabrication and justified the bombings of American targets in Africa, but regretting the deaths of people. He was interviewed by Special Branch in the early 1990s for allegedly calling for the assassination of John Major, He denied the allegation and was never charged.

Although he opposed the kidnapping and killing of Brit-ons, Sheikh Bakri, who holds a British passport, said yesterday that he supported action against British and American targets in the Middle East. He said: "We have the right to retaliate. I don't call it violence, it is the divine right to fight back. Muslims must resist "

Sheikh Bakri said that he had met several of the British Muslims who are under arrest in Yemen while he was teaching in Birmingham.

Yes, I know them personally. I taught them Islam, jurisprudence and foreign policy. mosque. Some of the cash goes. They are intellectual people peaceful young men." He said they were not members of Al

reference to military training. Abdul-Rahman al-Adhami, Islamic Gateway's co-ordinator, said: "We think this is beyoud the limits that we have agreed with the Supporters Of Shariah. We do not support, vised them to travel to Yemen. or have any contact with that Sheikh Bakri's links with organisation other than pro-

viding web space."

Another Muslim, aged 24, who asked not to be named, said he had visited the Fins-Prisbury Park mosque and the activities of Mr Hamza, who has organised camps there at which military skills were taught to young men, is bury Park mosque and found causing alarm among many moderate Muslims. the atmosphere intimidating. "Abu Hamza is a difficult man. He thinks the way of Isic said that he was offended lam is to fight. They teach peo-

ويحذامن الأمل

ple to hate people. I think 70 per cent of Muslims would like to see this man removed." training, were taking place at the mosque. He said he had never heard of such activities Mr Hamza said yesterday that he expected to be ques-It is understood that police tioned by police over his links have retently investigated the camps and decided that they were not illegal. They are ad-vertised on a website, which with the five Britons arrested in Yernen. He refused to comment further, saying he would add nothing more until Ramadan depicts a hand grenade. Yester-day the website provider, Isended. His stepson is one of those under arrest, and his natlamic Gateway, which offers ural son is on the run and wantfree Internet space to a wide range of Muslim organisa-tions, said that it would reed by the authorities in Yemen.

Leading article, page 19

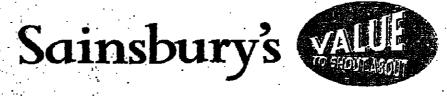


Sheikh Bakri is a former leader of Finsbury Park mosque, which has been used to give young Muslims military training

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Law provides a haven for radicals

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIFLOMATIC EDITOR

LONDON'S reputation as a the bombings of the Paris Methaven for Islamic extremists reinforcement by the allegations against the British Muslims detained in Yemen and e Yemeni Government from North London mosque.

Britain has come under owing pressure in the past five years to clamp down on some of which are accused of tions in the Middle East.

Algeria, Egypt, Turkey. Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and several Gulf states have accused: Britain of turning a blind eye to extremists who have fled activities while seeking asylum. Their governments have demanded a sharp crack-down on dissident exiles and have accused Britain of hypoc-

risy in tolerating the plotting friendly governments and even against Western interests. In response, the Government rushed through a new law on the back of last year's emergency terrorist legislation after the Omagh bomb-

ing. For the first time this made it an offence to plot terrorist activity abroad or to colterrorists. The law does not prohibit the promotion or incitement to terrorism, unlike previous proposed Conservadifficulties of definition and

ro may have been master-minded by London-based supporters of the Algerian extremist Islamin (GIA). Arab governments claimed that a network of extremist groups in Britain was supporting each other, and that one group, "al-Ansar" (The Helpers), was circulating paniphiles in North Loudon

mosques calling for the kill-ing of foreigners in Algeria Egyptian extremist exiles in London. In reply Britain promised to share intelligence. information with Cairo and to keep a close watch on known

extremist groups.

John Major told Arab am-bassadors in London three dent Chirac that security surwould be stepped up.

The issue came to a head with the proposal for a "Rally for Revival" of radical Islamic groups at the London Arena in September 1996. This fol-lowed two earlier rallies at Wembley which led to demonstrations by Jewish and homo-sexual groups that accused the radicals of inciting hatred.

The organisers proposed including Osama bin Laden. Several Arab governments threatened retaliatory action and the cancellation of con-

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Page 5

surfaces of clay, reaches a critical point and one of the layers slides down into the sea. Mr Culshaw said the erosion can Culshaw said use be accelerated by drought followed by heavy rains.

ling vulnerable shorelines. prompted the Environment Agency to consider reduc-

Coastline is on edge of collapse

Experts fear that the Beachy Head collapse will be followed by others, reports **Nick Nuttall**

THE Government was yester-day told to act urgently to counter the danger of further coast-al erosion in the wake of the landslide at Beachy Head.

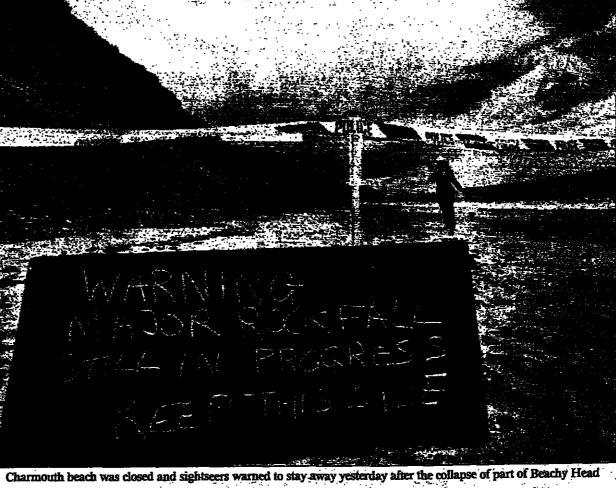
Stretches of the east and south coasts could be the next to collapse as torrential rains and high waves continue to pound Britain. Part of the Holderness Coast in Yorkshire, a strip east of Lyme Regis in Dorset, and a 200 metre stretch of cliffs on the Isle of Wight have been identified as most immediately vulnerable.

John Gummer, the Conserv-ative MP for Suffolk Coastal and former Environment Secretary, has tabled a series of Commons questions to John Prescott, the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, and Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr Gummer is to ask Mr Brown if he will now reconsider the "savage" cut in the rate of financial support from the Government for coastal defences - down by 20 per cent in many cases. He said the Government had also made it more difficult for local authorities to get this support. Mr Gummer wants to know who is to be in overall charge of countering the threat to the coastline and is urging the minister to establish an inte-grated programme of action. The threat to Britain's coast-

line — illustrated so dramatically when a large chunk of Beachy Head crashed down is a product both of global warming, which is causing sea levels to rise, and the tilting effect that is a legacy of the

last Ice Age. Monitoring equipment has



picked up yawning cracks in the cliffs on the Isle of Wight, at Freshwater Bay, and a £2 cliff road from collapse is ready to go into action.

Yesterday the Environment Agency warned sightseers to stay well away from Beachy Head, where a 50st by 200st section of the chalk cliff-face tumbled into the sea on Sunday night. A spokesman for the agency said: "The conditions are absolutely atrocious with high winds and lots of rain. We could get a large cliff fall at any time".

A geotechnics expert whose firm advises councils and Mr

Prescott's department on erosion said that the coast from North Yorkshire down through East Anglia and south along to West Dorset and Devon was vulnerable. Dr Alan Clark said: "It is impossible to say where the next collapse will occur. But you only need to look at the geology of the British coast to see where it is at risk." One of the areas most at risk, he said. was the Holderness Coast, running from Spurn Head to Brid-

lington, which is made of soft clay and over the past 1,000 years has lost about a mile. At Freshwater Bay, near Afton Down, where the hazard-

fored pile driving will hold up the road when - rather than if - the Isle of Wight rock face collapses. Dr Clark said.

Global warming is forecast to bring an average rise in sea levels of 24 centimetres in the next 50 years because of thermal expansion of the oceans and melting glaciers, according to the Hadley Centre, part of the Meteorological Office at Bracknell. Britain is also tilting because of movements associated with the last Ice Age, with Scotland rising and the

South of England falling.

Dr Clark, who works for High-Point Rendel in London,

said yesterday that the Hadley Centre estimated that, when the nit effect was factored in. sea levels around northern Scotland would rise by 16 centimetres and those in southern England by 3i centimetres by the middle of the next century. He said other features of global warming, including more violent storms, rainfall and waves, could hasten diff col-

The rate of loss is currently a metre a year on the south coast, Martin Lee of Newcas-On parts of the east coast, the

Smoking closes 'mortality gap'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEN are beginning to close the mortality gap with women, largely because they are

were collected by the Faculty and Institute of Actuaries which monitors death rates to help determine life insurance premiums. Its figures, based on the numbers of policy holders who died between 1991 and 1994, show that the average life expectancy for men since 1978 has increased by 14 per cent, while women's has in-

creased by only 12 per cent. When the actuaries made £88 £104 their last survey, from 1975 to Leeds/Bradford 1978, the average male policy holder aged 30 could expect to Leeds (The Queen's) live to be 76. Today he can ex-Liverpool* (The Gladstone) pect to live three years and £82 £100 three months longer. The aver-Manchester Airport age 30 year old woman in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne first survey could expect to reach 83 and 11 months. Today. she can look forward to living £82 three years and five months £82 £88

€90

Although this means that the actual mortality gap has widened slightly, the fact that men's longevity is increasing at a faster rate than that of women, coupled with the fact that more men are giving up smoking, means that the difference is bound to start narrowing before long.

The mortality rate for women who smoked was twice as high as the rate for non-smokers while for men it was 1.7 times higher. This means that on average a 30-year-old woman smoker will die seven years sooner than a non-smoker while a 30-year-old male smoker will die 5.5 years sooner than a male non-smoker. Since 1990, when the actuaries last collected information on smoking, the proportion of men who smoked fell from 31 per cent to 25 per cent while the number of female smokers fell from 25 per cent to 21 per cent. The majority of men who

but the majority of women who smoked were under 40. Figures from the Office of National Statistics suggest that the mortality gap between the sexes will narrow by 21/2 months over the next 25 years.

smoked were older than 40

'McLibel' case back in court

BY ERANCES GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE marathon libel battle brought by McDonald's against two environmentalists returned to court yesterday when the pair lodged an apgainst the ruling that they had libelled the compa-

McDonald's launched the libel suit after Dave Morris, 44, and Helen Steel, 33, distributed pamphlets entitled What's wrong with McDonald's? Everything they don't want you to know. In 1997, Mr Justice Bell found in McDonald's favour on some points, but also up-held the pair's claim that the chain's advertising overstated its food's putritional benefit. and that it had exploited children through its advertising, was responsible for animal cruelty and paid low wages.

The pair now argue that these findings were so damn-ing to the reputation of Mc-Donald's that the corporation's claim for libel should have been thrown out.

The hearing, at the Court of Appeal, continues.

Minister drops plan to ban untreated milk

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has abandoned plans to ban the sale of concern that it could be contain inated with harmful bacteria. Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, has told producers of untreated milk that he has "put a stop" to the ban,

which was proposed in November 1997. Mr Brown has decided that the risks from drinking "green top" milk, which accounts for no more than I per cent of total milk sales, do not justify removing the right of consumers to buy it. The Government is expected, however, to impose tougher conditions on raw milk production, including

more frequent hygiene tests. paid for by producers. Pasteurisation involves heating milk to a temperature required to kill potentially harm-ful pathogens, such as salmonella, campylobacter, E. coli and tuberculosis.

Enthusiasts say that pasteur-



Brown: said people had right to buy 'green top'

isation reduces the flavour of untreated milk and leaves it less rich in vitamins and other health-giving properties. Untreated milk has been

banned for sale in Scotland since 1983. In England and Wales, farm shops and milkmen can still sell it with a warning on the label that it may contain organisms harmful to health.

Regular drinkers of unpasteurised milk include the Queen, the Duke of Edin-

burgh, and the Prince of Wales, who are supplied by their own herds of dairy cattle at Windsor and Highgrove. Sir Julian Rose, the chair-

man of the Association of Unpasteurised Milk Producers and Consumers, said vester day: "This is very good news." We have campaigned long and hard for the future of

green top and it has been clear from the outset that the grounds for a ban never stacked up." The decision was deplored

by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Anne Goodwin, the institute's assistant secretary for food, said: "The Government is ignoring the warnings of its own scientific advisers. It does not make sense to take risks with dangerous new pathogens such as E.coli 0157,"

The ban was proposed on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the Micro-. biological Safety of Food after, surveys of raw cows milk found food poisoning pathogens and "substantial" evidence of faecal contamination.

Tipsters back Hughes for double

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

THE late Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes, yesterday received another posthumous prize, the Whitbread Poetry Award, a day after he won the T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize and a year after winning the overall Whitbread Book of the Year.

His poignant collection. Birthday Letters, goes on to form part of the shortlist for this year's £21,000 Whitbread Book of the Year, to be announced later this month. He won last year with Tales from

In the Whitbread's 28th year. Hughes faces competi-

tion from Justin Cartwright, who yesterday won the Novel Award: Amanda Foreman. who was singled out for the Bi-ography Award for her first book, on Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire; and Giles Foden, deputy literary editor of The Guardian, who took the First Novel Award.

Hughes's powerful verse about his tragic relationship with Sylvia Plath is the favourite both with the bookmakers William Hill and many in the literary world. The Whithread judges, who included the poet U.A. Fanthorpe, said: "In this

very personal collection Hughes avoids every pidall - of remorse, self-pity, self-justification — that the subject, his wife's suicide, could have led him into. His account of that relationship seems hewn from granite."

Hughes's daughter, Frieda, a painter and poet, said: "I am so happy that there are people who think he's as extraordinary as I do."-

Among previous Whithread winners are Kazuo Ishiguro's An Artist of the Floating World in 1986, John Richardson's A Life of Picasso in 1991

and Seamus Heaney's The Spirit Level in 1996.

year's novel category for Lead-ing the Cheers, the story of recently unemployed man who returns to small-town America for his high-school reunion and rediscovers a past life, vastly different from his own successful cosmopolitan existence in London.

The Children's Book of the Year will be announced on Janusry 26, with the overall winner from the other categories. BBC2 will broadcast the cere-

Duke stays with Navy for liaison job

THE Duke of York is to remain in the Navy, and will be promoted to a new post in international relations, the Ministry of

Defence announced yesterday. Last year the Duke, 38, indicated that he might leave the Navy after nearly 20 years' service, but he has been persuaded

to accept promotion to the rank of commander and to take on a challenging role liaising with other navies. Currently a lieutenant-commander working in the Directorate of Naval Operations in Whitehall, the Duke will re-

main at MoD headquarters when he

takes up his new post in April with the diplomacy section of the Naval Staff Directorate. It will entail a £9,000 pay rise to £45,000. The Duke is understood to have been persuaded to stay by the challenge of the new job and the lack of a regular family life to return to. His royal duties re-

main relatively light. His new post will involve the planning and administration of bilateral naval staff talks, as well as other linison duties in Britain and overseas.

An MoD spokesman said last night "The Duke will make full use of the extensive experience he has gained with MoD and elsewhere. He has a unique blend of skills; clearly his royal background will help, plus he has a fundamental understanding of the working of MoD."

Buckingham Palace said last night that the Queen had been consulted on the appointment and that she and the Duke of Edinburgh were "very pleased".

The Duke joined the Navy commission in 1979, and saw active service as a helicopter pilot during the Falklands conflict. He is currently responsible for the effectiveness of frigate and destroyer aviation.

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composition of the cliffs helps determine the rate of erosion. Mr Lee a geomorphologist, said that the cliffs on the east coast were deposited by glaciers between 15.000 and 30,000 years ago: They were made up of clay and rocks. and far softer than the chalk cliffs of the south, which were formed during the Cretaceous period 30 million to 100 million years ago. Both kinds of coastline are being undermined by wave action. The rubble formed by the collapse at Beachy Head will eventually be washed away, leaving the foot of the cliffs valnerable to wave action. Above this the chalk is rickdied with fractures, fissures and cracks more than a metre wide. Some of these expand and become unstable due to effects such as rainwater seeping down through the chalk Martin Culshaw, an engi-neering geologist at the British Geological Survey in Keyworth, Nottinghamshire, said he believed the heavy winter rains, and the exceptional wetness of 1998, caused the sudden collapse. Freezing temper atures can be a factor, but in

this case he believes temperatures have been too high. The erosion on the east coast is more akin to a landslide than a collapse, with the cliffs slipping into the sea because of internal pressures rather

than breaking off. Again, waves erode the foot of the cliffs helping to aggra-vate huge pressures building up in the layers of clay pressng against each other.

Eventually the pressure, which is also polishing the

Concern over the cost of de

Letters, page 19

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 1999

Premier League kicks off fight to save TV deal

isters - Kenneth Clarke and David Mellor - are on the teamsheet for the FA Premier League in its court battle over television rights.Mr Clarke, the former Tory Chancellor, who is a Nottingham Forest supporter, will find himself on the case of the labour the same side as the Labour MP Joe Ashton, a Sheffield Wednesday director and chairman of the all-party parlia-mentary football group, who is also being called by the League to give evidence.

The Football Task Force. headed by David Mellor, a Chelsea fan and former Tory minister, has backed the Premier League's fight to preserve its exclusive broadcasting agreement with BSkyB and the BBC.

The Director-General of Fair Trading wants to outlaw the E743 million deal on the grounds that it is anti-competitive and against the public interest. In a case expected to last four months, the OFT will contend that the League's 20 member-clubs are operating as a cartel by selling their rights collectively.

Yesterday was the opening day of the most expensive legal case in British sporting histo-ry, estimated to be costing up to £25 million. Charles Aldous, QC, for the League, told the Re-strictive Practices Court that £25m case starts

with warning on the threat to

life blood of football, reports

John Goodbody

ing succeeded in having the collective broadcasting agree-ment declared unlawful. Allowing the clubs to sign in-dividual agreements with othin a free-for-all and saturation

television coverage, he said.

"The life blood of football has always been its supporters, those prepared to attend home and away matches at all times of the year and in all kinds of weather," he told Mr Justice Perris, sitting with two lay members, Brian Currie, a

We must avoid a simution where lans stay at home in increasing numbers to watch the more fashionable clubs on tele-

At the moment only 60 Premiership matches are shown QC. for the League, told the Restrictive Practices Court that the "life blood" of English soccer—the fans—would drain away if the Office of Pair Tradional Property of SkyB, with highlights in the BBC's Match of the Day. The two channels deal with the Premier League lasts for four years. If the OFT was

the case, all 380 matches could be screened live on satellite, cable or terrestrial channels.

Mr Aldous said the deal benefited football as a whole, not just Premier League clubs. each of which was shown on television at least three times last season. He argued that money filtered down to small chils and the roots of the game. The issue of collective negoti-tion was not just relevant to

eming bodies of sports such as righy union and cricket were watching the case with concern vaiching the case with concern.
Evidence in the case will start next Monday. The Pre-mier League's witnesses will also include the Chelsea chairman Ken Bates, the referee David Elleray and the former

England player David Platt. News International, the subsidiary of The News Corporation that owns The Times, owns 40 per cent of BSkyB.



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The man who takes after his mummy

FROM the outside it is just an ordinary terraced house. But behind the front door lie the wonders of Ancient Egypt, and Cardiff's very own Pharoah.

Phil Naish has turned his fascination into an art form. Every evening he dons clothes similar to those worn by Rameses the Great, then reclines in one of his two replica thrones.

The house in Roath, Cardiff, has become a shrine to the rulers of Ancient Egypt. Mr Naish a 40-vear-old artist, is fortunate that his wife Suzanne shares his interest. Their home is packed with replicas of Egyptian statues, paintings and jewel-lery. His most prized object is a scarab 4000 years old. used by the builders of the pyramids to mark the end of a day's work. He said: "I have become quite well known locally for my interest. In fact, I've been given the nickname Rameses."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

GP denies three more murders

Melia, 73. Four other murder

charges were adjourned to March I at Manchester Crown Court He has already denied murdering Kathleen Grundy, 81, a former mayoress of Hyde. The trial has been set for October.

A bridge too fast

A Tony MP was hanned from driving for 14 days after being caught travelling at nearly twice the speed fimit. Howard A FATHER of two young boys Flight, who speaks for his party on transport issues, admitted driving at 73mph over a 40mph bridge. He was fined £540 by Ipswich magistrates. Alistair Hector, 52, who was

Helmet safety

A comparing to car the number of distributions among the 8 million child excises has received ERG000 from the National Lottery. The Bicycle Helmet Initiative Trust wants to increase the percentage of children who were a helmet from 18 percent in at least 40 percent. cent to at least 40 per cent.

Tie hanging

A 13 year old girl was in a seri-Alsycar-old gri was, in a serious condition in hospital after-being found hanging by her school lie. Her inother cut her down and dialled 999, and was advised on resiscitation until an ambalance arrived at

Footballer fined

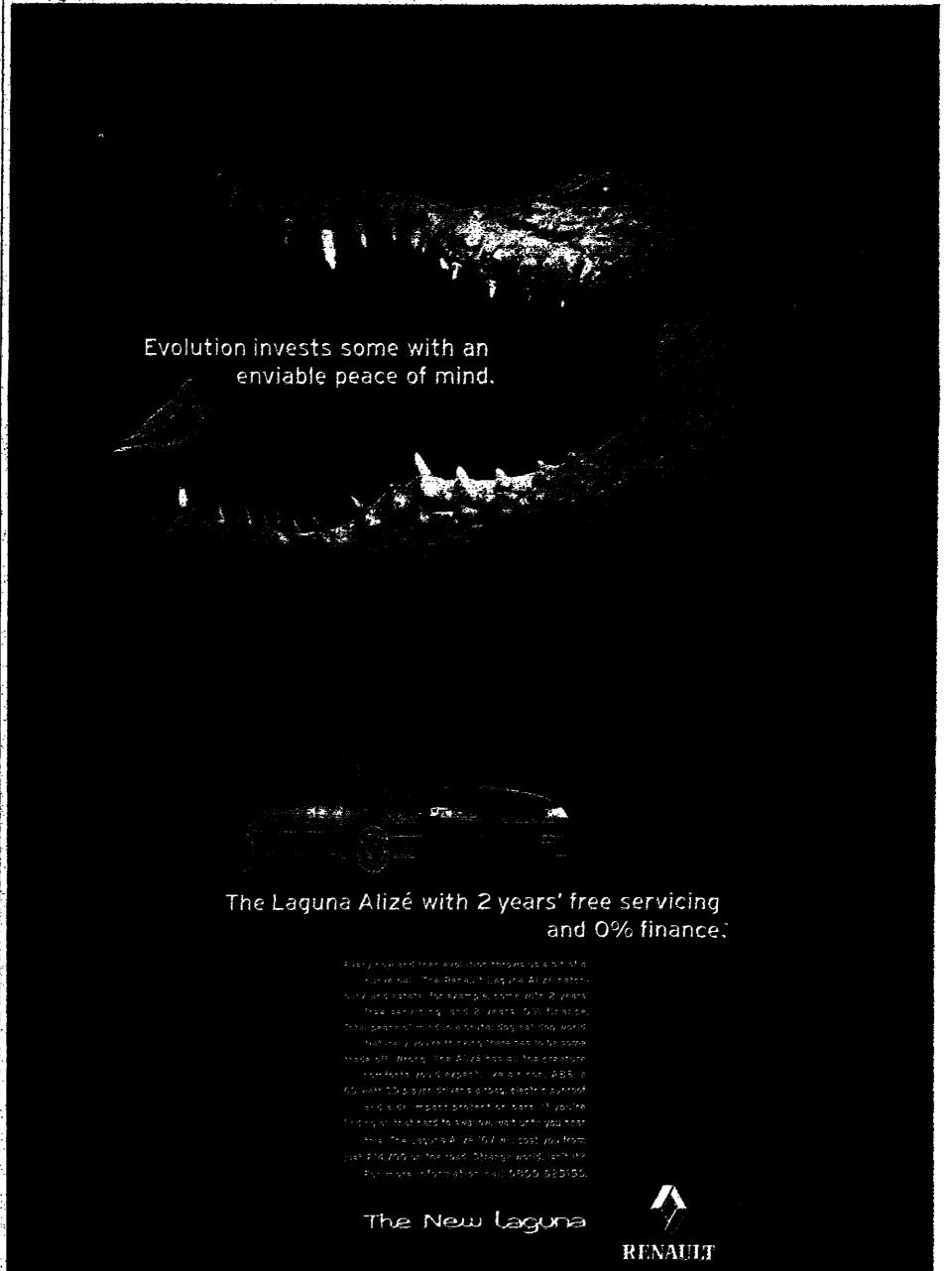
Footballer Trevor Sinclair was fined £250 and ordered to pay £225 compensation for leaping on a teenage girls car during drunken horse play af-ter his West Ham chib's Christmas party. Sinclair, 25, plead-ed guilty at Havering Magis-trates Court, East London.

Beatle damages

George Harrison, the former Beatle, accepted an apology and substantial damages over an allegation in a book, All favours in return for a donation to the charity, Release.

Pour getaway

A safe carried away by thieves contained only 350 teabags. The safe was taken from Trent Buses in Huckmall, Notting-hamsbire. A spokesman said.
"We never keep money on the premises and the only bonds in the safe were Brooks Bond."





in South African carjacking By Tem Jones

AND RAY KENNEDY

who was planning to return to Scotland from South Africa be-cause his wife was terrified by a growing tide of violence has been murdered just yardsfrom his home.

born in Stonehaven and educated at Laurencekirk, near Aberdeen, was left to die in the road after being shot in the head by a gang and dragged from his pick-up truck. Mr Hector, a self-employed

engineer, had put his house in Benoni, near Johannesburg, on the market and hoped to renum to Scotland in the spring. His mother, Catherine, said yesterday that he had been in South Africa for 14 years, but his wife, Margaret, 47, had be come concerned for the safety 12 u. Frenchis of their two sons, Kevin, nine and Marc, eight. "It is just dreadful. He was."

at a punction just a few yards from his home when they came towards him and shot him in his car. Then they pulled him out and drove away in it," she said."

"Although he loved the country, Margaret wanted to come home because she was terrified by the violence, She told me gunmen just picked drivers at random and shot them. to get their cars.
"I asked Margaret if anyone

saw the killing, but she said there is no way people would come forward because they would be next to be killed." Marcia Havemann, of the

Johannesburg police, said that Mr Hector's car had been found abandoned near the coalmining town of Ogies, 30 miles from the scene of the crime "We are shocked No Dressed Up: The Socies and crime is acceptable to us and the County Cathur by Jonathwe want to send out the mest on Green that he had sexual we want to send out the message that we will investigate this murder," inspector Havemann said.

Five Britons were injured in Cape Town last August when a bomb exploded at the Planet Hollywood restaurant. The Foreign Office warms people visiting South Africa to be on guard against carjacking and armed robbery, to avoid driving in rural areas at night, and

Ethics commissioner could help ministers avoid scandal

not the first time that a minister has faced ethical charges. There have been many such episodes in ministers. the last few years: Jonathan Aitken, Neil Hamilton, Lord Simon of Highbury, the Bernie Ecclestone affair, and Geoffrey Robinson. A common thread is that the inquiries

were mishandled by Whitehall. All new ministers receive a copy of the Ministerial Code, revised last year. This sets out a long list of potential problems for ministers to watch, on which they should consult their permanent secretaries.

vary between departments. And they are responsible to these same

A number of ministers and special advisers have told me how unsatisfactory this system is. They have found it hard to get clearcut advice. There is naturally a tendency for civil servants to tell their ministers that everything is all right.

When wrongdoing is alleged, the Prime Minister has usually asked have been followed. This is also next month. Elizabeth Filkin has

The Mandelson affair was But the latter are not experts on ethi-avoidable. It was, after all, cal issues, so interpretations can quiry into allegations against Mr Aitken showed. The Cabinet Secretary is not a detective or an investigating magistrate. He is not really in a position to challenge the truth of claims made by a minister. He has to accept that the minister is truthful and honourable.

One solution is to extend the remit of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards who investigates charges against MPs and examines compliance with the registhe Cabinet Secretary to conduct a ter of members' interests. Even berapid inquiry to see whether rules fore she takes over as commissioner



floated the idea that her office should inquire not just into the alfairs of MPs but also "what they do if they happen to be in ministerial positions". The Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life is reviewing the issue in its review of the implementation of the Nolan report. Ms Filkin is wrong. Ministers

are distinct and should not be confused. Ministers are accountable to the Commons, but their appointment is dependent on the Prime-Minister. Their conduct as ministers should be examined separately.

better answer would be to have an independent ethics small staff, would advise ministers It would also have forced Mr Manand investigate any allegations of wrongdoing. Such a commissioner would act like the Business Appointments Committee in advising ministers, and special advisers, on how to

from the Civil Service, and therefore able to question ministers.

Ministers would be under an obligation to consult such a commissioner on their appointment to discommissioner who, with a unfair charges over his BP shares. deison to deal with the consquences of his loan from Mr Robinson when he became a minister, and again when he became Trade and

are also usually MPs, but the roles handle potential conflicts of inter- Martin Le Jeune, a former assistant est. He or she would be separate secretary of the Nolan committee, is worried that an ethics adviser would undermine democratic accountability. However, such a commissioner would quickly be able to deal with charges about conflicts of cuss any potential conflicts of interest. That would, for instance, have
rent feverish mood in which the allowed Lord Simon to answer the press and the Opposition chase any claims and demand resignations.

That encourages cynicism about politics and discourages businessmen and others with outside interests from becoming involved in politics. An ethics adviser might help to

'Insulting' envoy rebuked by new Labour women

By Valerie Elliott, whitehall editor

SIR DAVID GORE-BOOTH, the Old Etonian former ambassador, yesterday mounted a robust defence of political incorrectness after facing the wrath of two new Labour worn-

His alleged faux pas was to describe British women in Saudi Arabia as "company wives". a term considered "deeply offensive" and "a generic sub-class" by Helen Jones, (Warrington North and ex-Ur-suline Convent. Chester) and Linda Clark, QC.(Edinburgh Pentlands and ex-Lawside Academy, Dundee).

But Sir David, the son of a former head of the Foreign Office who has survived 34 years of diplomatic manoeuvrings and shenanigans, was clearly mystified. "I don't think FCO (Foreign

Commonwealth will be marching in the streets if they are called FCO wives." He also renewed his attack on the "erosion of ministerial responsibil-

ity towards civil servants and after the hearing he suggested the Foreign Office was in dantheless the Gore-Booth style of to describe Mr Surtees to his

diplomacy has prompted new guidance to ambassadors on

how to handle complaints. Sir David, 55, appeared before the Commons Public Administration Committee yesterday to defend his role after being censured by the Parliamentary Ombudsman. Michael Buckley, for high-handed behaviour towards Paul Surtees, a former British Aerospace employee, in Saudi Arabia.

Sir David, who served as: High Commissioner in New Delhi and as Ambassador in Riyadh, found himself under attack over his style of language in a letter to the British Aerospace chief executive about complaints from Mr Surtees. Rhodri Morgan, the Labour committee chairman. compared Sir David to a char-

This concentration on language is bizarre ... I am perhaps not a very politically correct person?

boss and said it was "an in-credibly disrespectful tone". At one point a bemused Sir David admitted: "I find this concentration on language totally bizarre." He later conced-

ed: "I am perhaps not a very politically correct person." Ms Jones was not amused: "You saw individuals purely as creatures of their companies. What is a company wife? I find your language in that let-ter extremely offensive. Can you define to me what is a com-

Sir David: "I don't myself find anything offensive about the phrase company wife. Company wife means the wife of someone employed in the

Ms Jones: "So you think women working abroad are defined purely by the company for which their husbands work?"

Sir David: "I find nothing offensive about the term company wife any more than I find anything offensive about the term FCO wife." Ms Jones: "Perhaps that

of the Foreign Office." Dr Clark told Sir David that many women found such language "rather insulting" and sort of arrogance? Was it at your father's knee? Was it at suggested he should avoid it. She said: "Can you take it Eton? Was it in 34 years in the

from me that some women do

find it offensive to be classed

as some kind of generic sub-

class." Sir David replied: "The

offence is in the eye of the be-

diplomatic service? But Sir David said the word "arrogant" was pejorative and unnecessary. He was unrepentant about the Surtees case, disagreed with the Ombudsman's findings, and dis-approved of the £5,000 com-Peter Bradley, Labour MP for The Wrekin, added: "Where do you acquire that pensation paid. Sir John Kerr,

the Head of the Diplomatic Service, later told MPs it was "a disgraceful incident in which a triple apology was in order. But he did not believe "one mistake" should blemish Sir David's distinguished career. Sir John described his excolleague as "a cavalier. I am something of a roundhead." But he added: "I do not want a service of automatons."

MPs to tell Blair Mandelson must stay on sidelines

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR will today face blanket opposition from Labour MPs against Peter Mandelson making an early return

to government.
The Prime Minister will be told that the mood of the party is strongly against a comeback before the next election as friends of Mr Mandelson admitted such talk was severely damaging the former Trade Secretary. Mr Blair is also being warned by leading figures that his standing will suffer un-less he puts distance between

himself and his fallen friend. The Prime Minister is coming under pressure to be seen to criticise Mr Mandelson and get away from the impression that he cannot do without him.

The strength of feeling goes far beyond party traditional-ists. Even loyalist MPs say the mood has hardened since the parliamentary term started on Mondav.

It emerged yesterday that Mr Mandelson could soon take up a strategic role for Labour in this year's local, European. Scottish and Welsh elections, although he is believed to be cautious about moving back to Millbank, the party's headquarters, because it would look like a return to his spin-doctor past. Senior MPs, though, believe that he could give the party's campaign for

the coming elections much needed shape and direction. Today's warning will be de-livered when Mr Blair meets. Labour's Parliamentary Com-mittee, the liaison body between backbenchers and ministers, for the first time since Mr Mandelson quit. The Prime Minister will also be warned of the dangers of allowing Mr Mandelson to act as his link man with the German Government, a role he played last week to the astonishment

However, a Downing Street spokesman said Mr Mandelson wanted to be out of frontline politics "for the forseeable future" and that all other suggestions were "hype and mischief-making"

Ken Livingstone, the left-wing MP for Brent East, yes-terday accused Mr Mandel-son of having dragged Labour "through the mud". He said the MP for Hartlepool harl disgraced the party name with his "personal ambition and private gain".

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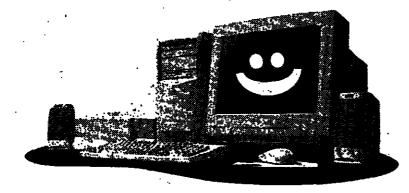
Mr Mandelson was facing a further storm with the accusation that he planned to oust both Mr Brown and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to position himself as Tony Blair's "heir apparent" after the next election. The claim is made in the unauthorised biography, out next week, by the journalist Paul Routledge.

Mr Blair will also come under pressure in the Commons today as William Hague has his first chance to raise Mr Mandelson's departure at Prime Minister's Questions and a Liberal Democrat motion will accuse ministers of allowing personal rivalries to may the presentation of policy.

acter straight out of Evelyn Waugh, who satirised the mansays much about the attitude ners of the upper classes. Mr Morgan objected to Sir David's phrase "one of yours"



Sir David yesterday: he said he found nothing offensive in the term "company wife"



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Labour to give up veto on life peers

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to give up his power to veto potential life peers nominated by the Tories and Liberal Democrats as part of the Government's plans to reform the House of Lords.

in a significant reduction in his patronage, the Prime Minister will next week promise not to interfere in lists of nominees put forward by William Hague and Paddy Ashdown, Mr Blair will restrict his patronage further by allowing a new appointments commission to nominate independent

crossbench peers without interference from Downing Street. The moves will come as part of the Government's White Paper on Lords reform which is expected to be published next week. The appointments commission will have seven mem-

bers: an independent chair-

man, three representatives of the main political parties, and three non-partisan appointees. The new body will take over the bulk of the work of the existing Political Honours Scrutiny Committee in vetting poten-tial life peers for financial and

other improprieties. The members are expected to be appointed later this year and start work once hereditary peers have lost their sitting and voting rights. The Government is expected shortly to appoint more Labour life peers - probably 50 - to ensure broadly equal numbers

with the Tories. A Whitehall source said: "The appointments commission will take over the appointment of crossbenchers. The Prime Minister will undertake to present its recommendations to the Queen without interference. That will also be true of nominations from oth-

er political leaders." Political working peers are appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of Downing Street. Mr Blair will retain control over the power of patronage that matters — the number of new peers given to

each party. But for the first time since 1958 when life peers were created. a Prime Minister will not have full control over the lists



sent to Buckingham Palace. If the lists of nominees put forward by Mr Hague and Mr Ashdown are accepted by the appointments commission, their names will go direct to the Queen without change.

Prime Ministers in the past are understood to have blocked specific individuals put forward by opposition leaders. Although the secrecy surrounding such appointments makes this difficult to prove both Tory and Labour sources last night admitted that horse-trading between the leaders' offices had taken place. "There were undoubtedly occasions when the Labour Party leadership put forward a name and that name was then blocked, one Labour

source said. Tony Blair this week made clear his enthusiasm to give up certain powers of patronage in an interview on the BBC's Breakfast with Frost programme. "I have made it clear ... that I see a reduction in the powers of patronage of the Prime Minister during the course of this first stage of

change," he said. "There will be an appointments commission that will be independent from the Prime Minister and the appointments commission will recommend crossbenchers in the fu-

Sources said no thought had yet been given to possible members of the commission. But they could include Lord Pym. the former Tory minister, and Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, the former



Baroness Dean and Lord Pym are thought to be possible members of the new appointments commission

print union leader, who are both members of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee. Others could be Lord Nolan

> bishop, a judge and a repre-sentative of ordinary people. The Government's plans to reform the House of Lords will begin next week when a short Bill scrapping the right of he-reditary peers to sit and vote is introduced into the Commons. If a deal struck by Viscount

the former law lord, a suitable

Cranborne, the former Tory leader in the Lords, survives under which the Tories would accept the Bill in return for saving some 91 hereditary peers in the short term — the measure could become law later Next week's White Paper

will also set out the terms and conditions of a royal commis-sion to recommend wider, fullscale reforms of the Upper House.

lts chairman will be announced next week and it should start work next month.

Pension payouts for men sacked at GCHQ

By JAMES LANDALE

WORKERS sacked from the Government's GCHQ intelligence gathering centre for refusing to leave their union are to be compensated for lost pension rights.

- Robin Cook praised the 14 men for their principled stand in the 1980s against Margaret Thatcher's ban on union membership at the communications centre near Cheltenham.

The Tory Government claimed that union member-ship posed a security threat and offered £1,000 to each of the 7.000 staff to leave their unions. The 14 who refused were

In a written answer to a Commons question, the Foreign Secretary said yesterday that he had reached agree ment in principle for the compensation after talks with the Council of Civil Service Unions and the TUC.

"This decision reflects the principled stand which the 14 trade unionists took, to the point of dismissal, against the attempt to take away their basic trade union rights." he said: The pension compensa-tion will be provided through a special scheme, which will be faid before Parliament once the details have been finalised. The sums paid to each man will depend on indi-

vidual circumstances. John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, said: "This finally closes a sorry chapter in British history. Robin Cook deserves great credit for right-

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Princess's fund gives £1m to mine charities

Pe to tell Bla Memorial Fund yesterday handed over more than El mil-lion to 13 landmine charities. All of the grants have gone to victims' organisations, and none to mine clearance

groups.
The Princess of Wales was involved in all aspects of the anti-landmine cause during the last year of her life and some clearance charities have criticised the fund for concentrating solely on victims. Andrew Purkis, the fund's chief executive, defended the trustees' decision.

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"This is a beginning, it is not the end. We are committed to working with and for the survivors of landmines long-term and sticking at it year in and

year out," he said.
"We are strongly in favour
in the principle of landmine clearance, but what we have to keep asking ourselves is how we can best make a difference with our money. I certainly would not exclude involvement in mine clearance in the

One of the charities that did get a grant was Tim's Fund, set up in memory of 23-yearold Timothy Goggs, who died while clearing landmines in Afghanistan in 1992. His par-

Trustees are criticised for refusing to help

mine clearance groups, reports

Michael Harvey

ents, Henrietta and Quentin, of Devizes, Wiltshire, said that the £70,000 grant was particularly appropriate. "Tim's Fund is a memorial project, the Diana Fund is a memorial project and the work of both those people is now going for-ward together." Mrs Goggs

Tim Goggs was posthumous-ly awarded the George Medal for his bravery in trying to rescue his colleagues in the mine explosion that killed him. He left a legacy to Christian Aid for a programme to teach people how to recognise mines and to mark minefields for later destruction. His parents have continued to raise money

for the cause. Tim Goggs had volunteered to go to Afghanistan while al in encouraging the Princess waiting to take up a commis in her crusade against mines sion at Sandhurst after com-

University. He loved the work so much that he stayed for 18 months until his death. He was in charge of a Halo Trust team clearing mines near Ka-bul, using a Russian tank to push two eight-tonne mine roll-

The tank ran into a boobytrap designed to stop such a clearance, and three mines exploded directly underneath it. igniting the fuel tank. Tim got out but went back for a friend. Julian Gregson. In doing so. he fatally damaged his lungs. He was flown to Britain but died nearly two weeks later.

Mr Goggs said: "Tim loved what he did and we have travelled to Afghanistan to see the wheat fields growing where he cleared the mines. We wrote to Princess Diana to tell her about the project should she want to go to Afghanistan. Her staff rang back to say she was very interested but it was not to be. She would have approved of this grant."

clining to fund the British Red Cross's work for landmine victims. The Red Cross was pivotal in encouraging the Princess ward to working with the organin her crusade against mines isation in the near future.

Of the 13 grants, ranging with the Leonard Cheshire In-



Quentin and Henrietta Goggs, whose son. Tim, was killed while clearing mines in Afghanistan. Tim's memorial charity was awarded £70,000

The trustees of the Princess's file trip to Angola in January from £11,000 to £125,000, only fund courted controversy by de 1997. Dr Purkis said that the one was to a charity directly as-Red Cross grant application did sociated with the Princess. The not meet the necessary criteria. Landmine Survivors Network. but that the fund looked for- which hosted the Princess's trip

ا هرکدارمن رالامل

ternational charity to continue Campaign; £39,600 for Motivaits work in Bosnia with the dis- tion; £20,000 for Disability abled victims of landmines.

The other grants were: ty and Development; £120,000 for Concern £125,000 for Action on Disabili-Concern Worldwide; £123,000 for the Jaipur Limb

the Children Fund. A grant of £60,000 was made to the UK Working Group on Landmines, the umbrella organisation that cam-

SALVAGING HMS ROYAL OAK'S CARGO OF OIL Oil leaking from the hull will gradually fill the collector and can then HMS Royal Oak lies in 30m of

Navy to remove oil from sunken war grave

FOR 60 years HMS Royal Oak has lain undisturbed, a grave for the 833 men who died when the battleship

was torpedoed by a U-boat.

The fight to preserve the dignity of the wreck, in Scapa Flow off Orkney, has grown fiercer in recent years as the thousands of tonnes of oil seeping from the corroding hull threaten environmental disaster.

Today the Royal Navy will conduct a unique operation that it hopes will remove the oil without needing to cut open the war grave.

Divers will attach a £20,000 steel 'umbrella" to the upturned hull to trap the oil before bringing it to the surface where it will be removed each month. It is estimated that the wreck will be empty by 2014. Conservationists, anxious to pro-

ton, Dorset. When the year-

rived in Africa with every confi-dence in our Churchill tanks

The Bovington Tiger was captured at Medjez el Bab on

April 21, during the advance

on Tunis. The Germans were on high ground and we ad-

vanced in the afternoon up the hill from a valley filled with

wheat fields," Mr Gugin said.

"We not had gone very far

but the Tiger was a shock."

people to see it in action.

Gillian Harris on a clean-up that will leave the wreck of HMS **Royal Oak** intact and reduce the threat to wildlife in Scapa Flow

tect Scapa Flow's large seal population and several species of rare birds, would prefer a quicker solu-

"It's a time bomb," Eric Meek, an officer with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said. The ship is lying less than half a mile offshore and at this time of year Scapa Flow is an area of major importance for

Arctic wintering birds.

"Thick furnace oil is leaking through thousands upon thousands of corroded rivets, and adding another 15 years to the 60 years it has already lain there is crazy. The extrac-

tion has to be speeded up before we have a disaster on our hands." Staff from the Royal Navy's Environmental Unit in Bath, who devised the scheme, want to disturb the wreck as little as possible. Slicing into the hull to siphon off what re-

mains of 3,500 tonnes of fuel has been rejected as unsuitable. The crew of the Royal Oak, which sank in October 1939, are not forgotten in Orkney. Each year the islanders hold a service of remembrance in which Navy divers hoist the White Ensign on the ship's stern.

Roger Tollervy, the project's direc-

tor, spent two years on the plan. He re-trieved the ship's plans from the Maritime Museum at Greenwich to create a three-dimensional computer model. Divers then established that oil was escaping through holes created by shrunken rivets.

Awareness in Action/Pan Afri-

can Federation of Disabled

People: £120,000 for POWER:

£12,000 for Voluntary Service

Overseas; £52,000 for War on

The divers found that it was the natural action of the tide and winds that was pushing the oil to the surface. Mr Tollervy realised that if a structure could be put in place above the hull, the oil would float into it.

The hull is surprisingly strong and our intention is to secure the steel canopy, check that the rate of

leakage has been accurately estimated and that the device can adequately contain it, and then accelerate the flow," he said. Before taps can be attached to the rivets to guide the oil out more quickly, the canopy has to be tested.

Allan Thomson, managing director of Briggs Marine, a Fife-based construction company, believes that the canopy built from the Royal Navy's designs is safe. "We have spent the past three months amending the original concept," he said. "One side of the canopy has been made longer than the other to compensate for the way she is listing."
Bob Moore, director of Orkney 1slands Council Harbours, said: "It's a compromise but hopefully a speedier solution can be arrived at in time."

Royal anchors on sale

former Royal Yacht Britanniaare expected to fetch up to not be used on warships. E10.000 each.

put out to tender after being found in a Ministry of Defence

TWO spare anchors from the store. While they are similar to military anchors, a small dehave been put up for sale, and. sign difference means they can-

Although tenders are sought The anchors, which are for their sale, the ministry about six feet tall and weigh may also consider giving them about three tonnes, have been to a museum or another interested party if it was felt to be

£97,000 puts fearsome tank back on track

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

World War the Allies had noth-The easy access German Tiger tank was twice the weight of its adversaries, its armour was twice as thick range from and its enormous gun made their weapons look like pea-Dolphin Now the most complete Tiger tank is to be restored to working order thanks to a makes bathing a



pleasure

not a chore

Whatever your needs in the bathroom Dolphin has something truly special for you. Their range of walk in showers and powerbaths, including the deep soak "Tranquillity" bath, makes barbing easier, safer, and more comfortable.

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Dolphin

FOR most of the Second, taken out by two beautifully aimed shots. The first shot ing that could touch it. The passed straight through my tank from the front to the back and set the engine in the rear on fire. Luckily it did not hit any of us and we baled out.

mander and radio operator of a Churchill near us were blown out of the turret and killed with the entire crew. The rest £97,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. of our tanks started firing and somehow one of the shots hit Since the end of the war the

the Tiger, which was dug in."
When the hill was taken the 56-tonne Tiger, captured in North Africa in 1943, has been fluke nature of the disabling shot was revealed. The twothe most popular attraction at the Tank Museum in Bovinginch round, which could not have penetrated the armour, long restoration is complete it had hit the end of the Tiger's 88mm gun, glanced off along the barrel into the turret ring will be the only working Tiger tank in the world, and fit to be reintroduced to one of the last and jammed the turret. Unable to traverse the gun and In 1943 Peter Gugin was a young lieutenant in 48 Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, commanding three tanks in Tunisia. Mr Gugin, 78, of Learnington Spa, said: "We arrived in Africa with earny config. with the commander slightly wounded, the crew had fled.

Restoration of the Tiger is in tended as a memorial to Allied tank crews who had to face the formidable foe. Kate White, project leader, said: "The Tiger attracts worldwide interest because it was one of the most impressive armoured vehicles of the Second World War.

"It will be on static display in the winter but in the summer it will be operated outdoors, where its unique power and character will be on show."More than 1,300 Tigers were built but no more than 12 are believed to have survived.



The Tiger tank at Bovington will be the only working model

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RUDOLF BIHARY / REUTERS



Fischer: tax issue is a British problem

Germany returns to attack on sleaze and bad management. EU taxes

By Charles Bremner

AFTER a Christmas truce. Germany yesterday launched a fresh attack over the national right to veto European

Calling for rapid steps to closer political union. Josch-ka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, predicted that the EU would be ready for its next round of changes to its basic treaty in 200!. Germany believes that by then only trea-ty changes should be subject to veto, he said. The key question here is the Union's readiness to accept majority decisions in as many areas as possible," he added.

Tony Blair has rejected any move to majority voting on taxes, along with German calls for closer "harmony" in fiscal policy, a theme which is being pushed hard by Bonn in its current turn in the EU presidency. France has also backed the idea of majority

voting on taxes. Herr Fischer said he was not trying to create difficulties for Britain just as Mr Blair was bringing it closer to the EU mainstream. But, he added, "the problem is a British one. not a European one".

Mr Blair proclaimed the tax argument closed at the Vienna EU summit last month after he won assurances from the Germans that nobody was seeking "uniform" tax rates across the Union.

Presenting Germany's EU programme to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Herr Fischer also reinforced Bonn's demands for a review of Britain's special rebate from the EU budget.

Commission fights to avert censure vote

THE European Commission was under pressure last night to sacrifice two of its members - Edith Cresson of France and Manuel Marin of Spain — as the price for averting a crippling censure vote by the European Parliament over

The stakes were raised in the Commission's showdown with the Parliament when the European People's Party (EPP), the centre-right group that is its second biggest bloc, threw its weight behind a Liberal-Green motion demanding the resignation of the two commissioners deemed most re-

sponsible for malpractice. With resistance from the dominant Socialist group shaky, the chances are high that a majority of the 626-member assembly could disown the pair in votes tomorrow that risk paralysing the whole EU machine.

The Commission was locked in discussion last night on strategy for cooling the Parliament's ire. Franz Fischler, the Austrian in charge of agriculture, said members were standing behind Mme Cres-son and Señor Marín. No Commission member has ever been forced out of office.

Mme Cresson, 65, a contro versial former French Prime Minister who is in charge of research and education, is blamed for the mismanagement of millions of pounds in

will decide fate of two members, writes Charles Bremner

Showdown

a vocational training pro-gramme, as well as for giving Commission contracts to friends. Señor Marín, 49, a long-serving Commissioner in charge of overseas aid. is held responsible for the mismanagement of tens of millions of pounds in various pro-grammes as well as cronyism. Both have rejected all charges. The Parliament has no pow-

er to dismiss individual commissioners and Jacques Santer, the Commission President, was also supporting his colleagues after attempting to defuse parliamentary anger on Monday with new anti-sleaze

However a negative vote would inflict crushing discred-it on the Santer team. Contin-ued Commission defiance is certain to boost the vote in favour of all-out censure of the executive. A two-thirds majoriwould automatically sack the whole Commission.

Party political manoeuvring was adding to the confusion in Strasbourg yesterday



Edith Cresson and Manuel Marin, who face being unseated over alleged fraud and mismanagement

group leaders struggled to lay down clear lines for their members. Pauline Green, the British Labour MEP who leads the Socialist bloc, was struggling to stop a sizeable band of German and other rebels back-ing censure while also resisting the move against the indi-vidual commissioners. "Pick-ing off commissioners is unacceptable to us. If you are going to pick one or two then you are going to have to pick them all. You must sack the lot."

But Mrs Green, under pressure to save the day from Germany and the other left-wing governments, backed away from a promise to support all-out censure if individual commissioners were penalised. Clearly alarmed at the prospect of political disaster, she urged Mr Santer to ensure a favourable vote by fleshing out his reform plans.

Arguing that Commission abuses did not merit full-scale sacking, she charged fellow MEPs with hypocrisy over their failure to clean up sleaze abuses in their own assembly. By focusing fire on two out of the 20 commissioners, leaders of the Liberals and other smaller groups are making clear their price for saving the

skin of the full Commission tomorrow. "A motion of censure is too blunt a measure. What we need is a selective cull," said Edward McMillan-Scott, leader of the British Tories. who are part of the EPP. Only the Greens and smaller groups fully back censuring the whole Commission. Anger against Mme Cres-

son, a hot-tempered Socialist who was close to the late President Mitterrand, intensified after an appearance before the Parliament in which she ridiculed the allegations and snapped at MEPs for failing to listen to her. Señor Marin scored somewhat better with an emotional approach in which he proclaimed his personal honesty while acknowledging that mistakes had been made in his administration.

Leading article, page 19



The widow of Jan Ducky is comforted after Slovakia's former Economy Minister was assassinated outside his flat in Bratislava by an unidentified gunman

Slovak ex-minister killed

man said. Slovak press

Bratislava: Jan Ducky, the former Slovak Economy Minister, was assassinated here in front of the apartment block where he lived by a gunman who pumped several bullets into his head, police reported

esterday. Mr Ducky, 55, served in the Government of Vladimir Meciar, the authoritarian former Prime Minister, from December 1994 to August 1996. He was a close associate of Mr Meciar, who was ousted in elections last September. Witnesses said Mr Ducky was shot on Monday by a man in his thirties, a spokesreports recently indicated that he was involved in a number of suspicious business deals. The ex-minister was ap-pointed head of Slovakia's gas utility in April 1997, a post he held until last November. He

was also a senior member of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, Mr Meciar's former governing party; the biggest in parliament. Mr Meciar's Government

has been replaced by a fiveparty coalition amid widespread opposition to his au-thoritarian style and accusa-tions that it used underhand

ends. Mafia-style violence has also marred Slovakia's reputa-

Mikulas Dzurinda, the new Slovak Prime Minister, has vowed to clean up the country's image and prepare it for membership of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Despite Slovakia's relative only country in the ex-communist bloc to be rejected for EU membership talks on political grounds, in the European Commission's opinions on candidate states in 1997. (AFP) Yeltsin's nuclear officers resign

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HELD & STREET

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THE resignations of four senior members of Russia's armed forces have jeopardised the country's nuclear security and left President Yeltsin in sole charge of the "nuclear still-case". Komsomolskaya Prav. da reported yesterday. Lieutenant-General Anatoli

Sokolov, commander of the Missile Attack Prevention Division, said he felt his work for the army to be "senseless". Three of his deputies also resigned in protest at being brought under the control of the Strategic Missile Troops.
Until now General Sokolov

and his colleagues have been regarded as the President's key advisers on the workings of the "nuclear suitcase". Their resignations follow military reforms designed to cut costs and improve efficiency.

The newspaper expressed outrage at the loss of the four senior officers and described with derision the results of General Sokolov's request for a further investigation into the merging of the two units. Apparently, the investigation took the form of reprimands for Russia's foremost electronics experts for wearing stice

laces that were too long. However, Aleksandr Goltz, military expert for Itogi magazine, said the resignations were more the result of internal infighting than a matter of military principle and said nuclear security had not been put at risk. These men are no longer as important as they used to be and it came as quite a shock to them to be stripped. of their status," he said.

Russia's nuclear capability remains a threat both to itself and to the rest of the world. A report last year by Germany's Peace and Conflict Research Foundation said that serious problems with early-warning systems in Russia meant that nuclear weapons were often kept in a permanent state of alert and that they could be launched within minutes of a real or imagined attack. ☐ Washington: The United States imposed economic sanctions against a Moscow university and two other Russian institutions, accusing them of leaking nuclear and missile technology to Iran. (AP)

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'Danger' plant faces inquiry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE

THE government-owned nu-clear fuel company in France is under investigation on suspicion of endangering public health by violating safety regulations at its nuclear waste reprocessing plant in La Hague by the Channel

Acting on a complaint filed by an anti-nuclear group in 1994, Frédéric Chevallier, an investigating magistrate in Cherbourg, announced an inquiry into the company, Coge-ma, on suspicion of "putting the life of another in danger by exposing them to the immediate risk of death or injury of a sort leading to mutilation or permanent infirmity, by deliberately violating security oblig-

ations as defined by the law". Cogéma said that it was as-tonished by the action. "Cogé-ma formally disputes the charge that it has abandoned. dumped or arranged to have dumped, waste materials in violation of the law," the com-

pany said in a statement. In 1997, French scientists said they had identified a higher incidence of leukaemia among people living near the plant, and in November Greenpeace claimed airborne radioactivity had been detected at levels thousands of times above normal. Cogéma said the gas, Krypton-85, was not highly toxic.

'King Knut' strikes deal over Kosovo hostages FROM TOM WALKER IN BRAGAS, KOSOVO

KNUT VOLLEBAEK, the new chairman of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, yesterday said the Kosovo hostage crisis was over, and that eight Yugoslav army conscripts, held by the ethnic Albanian guerrillas since last Friday, would be released soon.

The Norwegian, on his first visit to Kosovo, could not give details of how a deal had been struck with the Kosovo Liberation Army, or say if any concessions had been made. The KLA had been demanding that at least nine of its fighters held by the Serbs be swapped with the conscripts.

"We are demanding that they all be released and that there are no conditions" was all that Mr Volleback would say. KLA sources said they believed a secret deal had been made, in which the Serbs would release some prisoners

During a busy day. Mr Vollebaek -- dubbed "King Knut" by the press corps for his in-stant success — viewed at first hand how his 700 unarmed monitors in the province have metamorphosed into peace-keepers. In a convoy of distinctive orange Jeeps, the OSCE chairman drove to Podujevo. around which the Yugoslav Army has massed two armoured infantry compa-nies, their tank barrels pointing in the direction of the hills his fifth spent beneath the where the KLA has been hold-stars; he slept on a flat patch of ing the conscripts. Mr Volleback, who is the

Norwegian Foreign Minister, suffered the indignity of his armoured vehicle sinking axle deep into mud just short of the army's forward positions. He was rescued by a British monitor in a Land Rover. The British monitors, who have played a crucial role in the hostage negotiations, have admitted that they have become the backbone of the OSCE operation.

"It all stems from our Northern Ireland experience," one former army officer said yesterday. This whole thing would fail apart pretty quickly without us.

He said that last night was



stars; he slept on a flat patch of gravel behind his Land Rover, he said, keeping a wary eye, round the clock, on the Yugoslav Army.

The Kosovo mission's Chief of Staff, Major-General John Drewienkiewicz, a former British Army head of engineering. confirmed that the monitors had been venturing well be-yond their original brief of counting troop and guerrilla numbers and equipment.

Over the weekend, when the Yugoslav Army seemed tempted to storm the village of Bajgora, where the army conscripts are being held near the regional KLA headquarters, General Drewienkiewicz said ir had been down to the monitors. mostly British and American,

to prevent a bloodbath.
"We had to persuade them to step back," he said. "My peo-ple walked the tanks back." In Bragas, a village two miles from Podujevo, the Albanians held a funeral for a local politician assassinated in Pristina on Monday night. His death was blamed, by speakers at the ceremony, on Ser-

bian secret agents. As he was buried, a volley of fire from a Yugoslav army tank sent dozens of crows into the sky. For Mr Volleback, despite his success on hostages. it was a powerful reminder of how fragile the ceasefire is.

First gas station ready for 'green' cars

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY turned a little greener yesterday with the opening of Europe's first liquid hydrogen filling station. Hydrogen — three times as powerful as petrol — is being touted as the clean fuel of the 21st century and the race is on to make the first mass-produced hydrogen vehicle.

Since the Green Party entered government - as junior partner to the Social Democrats - industry has pushed hard to develop alternative energy sources.

symbolic rather than immediately useful. Direct hydrogen injection has proved a complicated way to fuel cars. Prototypes use special fuel cells harnessing 70 per — another hydrogen project—but r cent of the energy created from the commass car production. Even so, the bustion of hydrogen. This compared has caught the spirit of the times.

favourably with petrol combustion but hydrogen has to be cooled to minus 253C. (minus 423F) to become a liquid. Direct hydrogen is, at the moment, impractical and uncommercial, but DaimlerChrysler has constructed a prototype using a liq-uid methanol that is then converted into hydrogen gas. It said vehicles using hydrogen could be on offer by 2004.

Some Green activists are sceptical about the fuel. Although it produces no The filling station, in Hamburg, was environmentally damaging waste - only water — the manufacture of hydrogen requires huge energy expenditure. That might make ecological sense for airships - another hydrogen project - but not for mass car production. Even so, the idea

Yesterday the German renewable energy company WRE said it would begin selling "green" electricity in England and Wales in April. The electricity regulator, Offer, has given WRE the go-ahead to supply households using the grid system from a consortium of companies that harness solar, water, wind and bio-power.

Our prices will be about 10 per cent above others but will not be unrealistic rather they will be in the top third of competitors," said Martin Jakubowski, a WRE director. "In the long term WRE will be able to reduce its electricity price through economies as well as big and efficient plants." The company also plans windparks off the Cornish coast and in the North Sea, near Germany's coast.

Clinton critic accused by porn tycoon

ONE of President Clinion's fiercest critics has became the latest victim of Larry Flynt, the pornographer, who claimed he was a hypocrite for having an alleged affair and helping his wife to have an abortion.

Bob Barr, a congressman from Georgia, who had called for Mr Clinton to be impeached before anyone had even heard of Monica Lewinsky and is one of the Best II. sky and is one of the Republican "managers" presenting the case against the President in the Senate, is a stern antiabortionist and proponent of

In the latest demonstration the depths to which political life in Washington has sunk, a smirking Mr Flynt produced an affidavit from Mr Barr's former wife, claiming that he had paid for her to have an abortion and had been unfaith-

Gail Barr, who was Mr Barr's second wife, said she was convinced that her husband had an affair with the woman who became his third wife while they were still liv-

ing together.

Mr Flynt produced transcripts of their divorce proceedings in which Mr Barr invoked a Georgia statute similar to the Fifth Amendment to avoid answering when asked the had committed adultery. The publisher said he was, therefore, a hypocrite for lam-basting Mr Clinton's evasive ness when he was questioned about his relationship with

Ms Lewinsky. Mrs Barr also said that her former husband did not oppose her decision to have an abortion, paid for the opera-tion and drove her to and from the clinic. In public, Mr Barr likens abortion to murder and has said that he would do everything possible to stop his present wife terminating a pregnancy, even if she had

> To me that represents the ultimate form of hypocrisy and, in many ways, it is worse than not telling the truth under oath," Mr Flynt said. In a statement yesterday,

'Hypocrite' taunt hurled at House

Republican, writes Damian

Whitworth

Mr Barr declined to discuss his personal life, but said: "I have never perjured myself. I have never suggested, urged, forced or encouraged anyone to have an abortion."

Mr Flynt, who publishes Hustler and a string of other pornographic magazines. offered a reward of \$1 million (£615.000) for information about the intidelities of mem-bers of Congress. He says he is preparing to divulge new sleazy details as the trial of Mr Clinton in the Senate goes on. Last year Bob Livingston, the incoming Speaker of the House, resigned as Mr Flynt's investigators were gathering information on his extramari-

The pernographer, who treated his right to print hardcore pornography as a First Amendment crusade and was immortalised for doing so in the film The People Versus Larry Flynt, denied that he has had any co-operation in his muck-raking from the White

But Jim Nicholson, chairman of the Republican National Congress, demanded that President Clinton call off his "attack dogs" and "end the tactics of sexual terrorism and put your buddy, Larry Flynt, back in the plain brown paper wrapper where he belongs".

Mr Barr and the 12 other

members of the House Judiciary Committee were busy yes-terday writing the opening prosecution arguments which will begin when the trial starts

in earnest tomorrow.
The House has 24 hours to make its case and the White respond. Only then will the issue of whether or not to call-

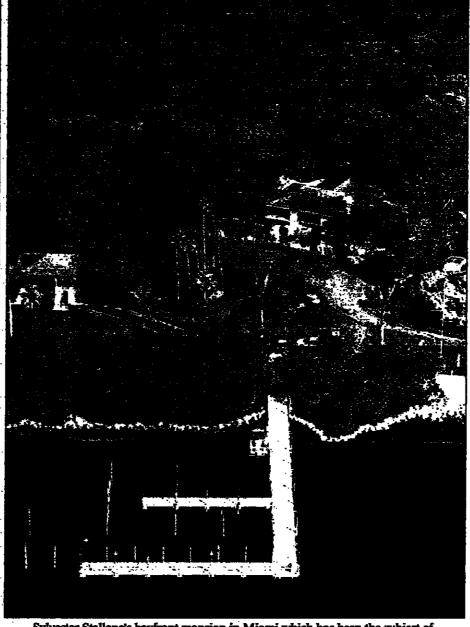
Lewinsky, be debated.

Mr Clinton is accused of committing perjury by giving a false account of his relationship with Ms Lewinsky to the Grand Jury last summer and obstructing justice in his attempts to cover it up. Joe Lockhart, the White

House spokesman, yesterday attacked the 105-page legal brief submitted by the House prosecutors in which they outlined how they would show that seemingly innocent events may well take on a surister, or even criminal, conno-tation when observed in the context of the whole plot". Mr Lockhart said: "The hallmark of a weak case is hyperbole and overblown rhetoric. It

reads like a cheap mystery." A new poll yesterday by USA Today and CNN showed that 79 per cent of Americans thought Mr Clinton had committed perjury and 53 per cent believed he had obstructed justice. But majorities in both cases thought the crimes did not warrant his removal from office. His job approval rating remained high, at 67 per cent.

Bronwen Maddox, page 18



وركذار من رائيمه

Sylvester Stallone's bayfront mansion in Miami which has been the subject of a \$27.5 million offer by lawyers acting on behalf of a dog named Gunther

Millionaires' Miami going to the dogs

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AGENTS for the actor Sylvester Stallone, who owns a luxurious waterfront villa in one of Miami's plushest neighbourhoods, are considering a bizarre offer from the handlers of a German shepherd dog which inherited \$65 million (£40 million) from a

The dog — Gunther IV — in-herited the money through its father, Gunther III, which per-formed with a popular Ger-man disco dance troupe, the Gunther Group. His bark was so endearing that Countess Karlotta Liebenstein left him her fortune in 1992. Gunther III also died. and

the fortune — now estimated at \$200 million — passed to Gunther IV. The money is in the safekeeping of the Gunther Corp, an offshore holding company in the Bahamas and is administered by lawyers entrusted with looking after Gunther IV's every need - including suitable accomodation and a bodyguard - as well as promoting music, sports and scientific research.

"Our clients were very impressed by the elegance of the home, and are therefore evaluating the prospect of becoming active purchasers," they wrote in a letter to Wimbush-Riteway Realty, the Miami estate agent handling the sale of Mr Stalione's 11-acre property



in the Coconut Grove district. When he bought it in 1994 the \$8 million price tag was the highest ever paid for a south-ern Florida home.

Mr Stallone recently decided to sell the home after complaining that his privacy was being interrupted by tourists. The asking price is \$27.5 mil-lion (£17 million). Mr Stallone is reportedly moving closer to Hollywood — with his wife and their labrador, Flipper where he has bought a \$10 mil-lion home in Beverly Hills. But Gunther IV is facing

competition for the house. A group of investors has already offered Mr Stallone \$24.7 million, and plans to build a luxury hotel on the site. However, local homeowners do not like the idea of their quiet streets becoming a commercial thoroughfare, and the hotel project may not be approved.

ir strikes de ovo hostage

Beijing crackdown irks Washington

Washington: America told China yesterday that it was "very disrbed" at the recent crackdown on Chinese dissidents and said the Asian nation would benefit if its people could take part freely in public life. The crackdown, aimed at advocates of a multiparty system, could spoil a visit to Washington in April by Zhu Rongji. the Chinese Prime Minister, an American official added.

the Chinese Prime Minister, an American official added. The meeting in Washington was part of the first human rights talks between the two countries for four years. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said: "We believe that it is very important for a country such as China, which has great responsibilities and is a hugely important country, to be able to benefit by the free participation of all its people." (Reuters)

Green film protest fails

production of a Leonardo DiCaprio film in a national park conservation area on a southern Thai island. Environmentalists, residents and hotel and tour operators have opposed plans by Twen-th Century Fox to film The Beach on the Phi Phi Islands in Kra-bi province. The film crew has removed natural vegetation from Maya Beach in the islands and planted 93 coconut trees, which the protesters say will permanently damage the ecosystem. (AP)

Spirit of Stalin returns

Moscow: A grandson of Stalin has launched a movement aimed at ousning President Yelisin. Colonel Yevgeni Dzhugashvili yesterday joined a group of leftists to found a new political bloc whose aims are the restoration of the Soviet Union and the removal of the post of President of Russia. Dzhugashvili was the name of Stalin before he succumbed to the Bolshevik fashion for pseudonyms. Colonel Dzhugashvili used one of his grandfa-ther's phrases to call Mr Yeltsin "an enemy of the people". (AFP)

Net losses for business

Singapore: The Internet will destroy many businesses and The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, will not rush into the increasingly expensive sector, the group's chairman and chief executive, Rupert Murdoch, said yesterday. While confident of the future of traditional media, he told a broadcast industry group: "The internet will destroy more businesses than it will create in the sense that it will wipe out the middlemen." (Reuters)

Hindus burn church

Delhi: Hindu zealots attacked a church in western India just hours after Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, visited the area to try to halt a wave of violence against Christians. The church in the Dangs district of Gujarat state was set alight, Father Dominique Emmanuel of the Catholic Conference of Bishops said. Six churches and missionary schools in Gujarat were torched by Hindu extremists during the Christmas period. (AFP)

Fax of life

Perfit: Australians besotted with their jobs rather than their partners have been urged to turn off their faxes and turn on their low. ers. Young couples were being affected by Tins (Two Incomes, No Sex), Dr Denis Cherry, of the Perth Human Sexuality Centre, said." He advised couples fearing they were heading down the slippery Tins slope to escape on a romantic holiday. (AFP)





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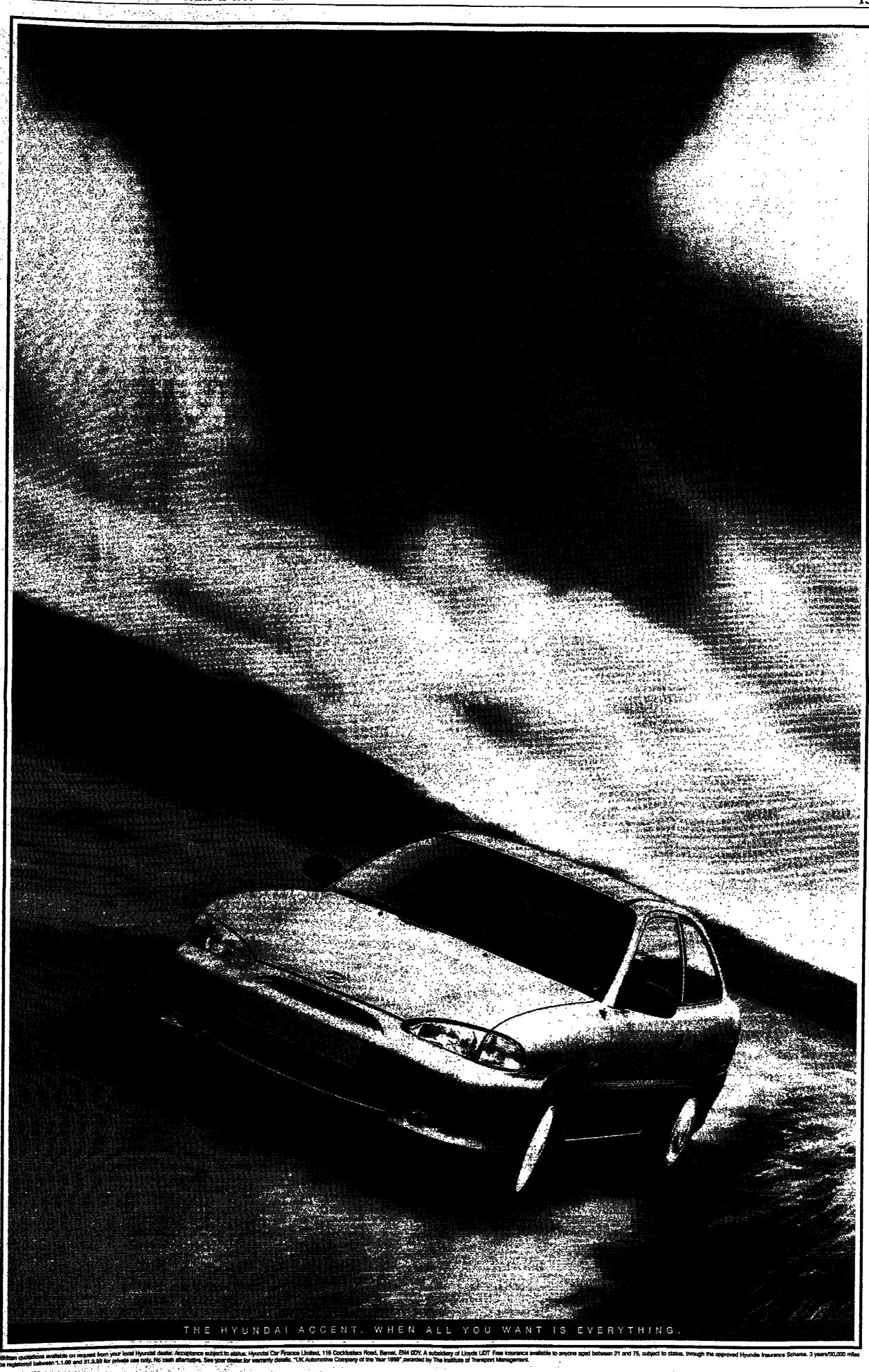
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Nation's natural wealth wasted

By MICHAEL DYNES

EVER since diamonds were discovered in Sierra Leone by the British Geological Survey in 1930, the industry has been cursed by an inability to prevent anyone from digging them out of the ground.

The country's diamonds are dispersed over such vast areas that it has been impossible for national authorities to prevent freelance operators from mining them for sale on the black market.

One of the world's great diamond producers has been virtually wiped out as a result, but the prospect of vast wealth continues to excite interest in the country's natural resources among legitimate and ille-gitimate business interests.

The Sierra Leone Selection Trust, a British firm. began commercial mining on a small scale in 1934. After it teamed up a few years later with De Beers, the global diamond giant, the industry grew rapidly. By the 1950s Sierra Leone was one of the world's most important sources of gem-quality diamonds.

But things soon began to fall apart. The Sierra Leone Selection Trust couldn't control the source." Andy Lamont, a De Beers spokesman, said. "Diamonds started appearing on the market from locals. As small operators got involved, the big firms lost control. That's the story of diamond mining in Sierra Leone."

Attempts were made to buy the illicitly mined diamonds, but it was impossible to stem the growing tide of freelance operators and prevent the loss of rev-

Mr Lamont added. Corruption, mismanage ment and greed destroyed Sierra Leone's diamond industry, and deprived the Government of vast revenues. De Beers pulled out in 1985 because of the deteriorating political climate. Today the country produces 150,000 carats a year compared with 20 million from Botswana.

Freetown staff had 'a secret channel to Cook'

THE findings of the report by Sir Thomas Legg, QC, into the Sandline affair — which blamed Foreign Office officials for fell cials for failing to brief Robin Cook about allegedly illegal arms shipments by the British security company to the elected Freetown Government of President Kabbah last year -have been undermined. Investigations by The Times have re-vealed that briefings were sent by the officials through secret German communications.

It appears that Peter Penfold, British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, and other officials were given access to encoded German communications equipment to transmit details of the arms supplies. and activities by a handful of South African mercenaries flying a helicopter in support of West African peacekeepers fighting rebels in the former British colony, with the approval of the German and British Governments and their

secret services. When the Sandline affair was exposed last year, the company had tabled a proposal to send more mercenaries to Sierra Leone to support West

African peacekeepers. "When the British Government says that it did not know, it is quite simply not telling the truth. Not only were communications supplied by the Germans, but these briefings would have ended up on the top of the relevant minister's papers in the morning in Bonn as well as London," said a Western intelligence source.

Mr Cook and Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister responsible for Africa, told the Legg inquiry and parliamenta-ry committees investigating the affair that they were not informed of support for the plans to send arms and mercenaries to Sierra Leone.

Mr Penfold was criticised last year by Sir Thomas. former Permanent Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, for having failed to keep his masters in London fully informed. Sir Thomas's report also

said that the British diplomats working in Conakry in Guinea, in "exile" from Freetown, were unable to send secure messages back to London, and that this accounted for a breakdown in communications. The



West African peacekeepers search a Sierra Leone civilian suspected of being a rebel in Freetown, where the battle to control the capital continues

explanation raised amusement among British diplomats at the time, who pointed out that a Queen's Messenger carrying a diplomatic hag would have been perfectly

But use of the secure German communications chan-nels not only shows the high level of clearance given to the backing for Sandline's negotiations, but also implies that the secret method of communication was kept from Sir Thomas and parliamentarians involved in the later

investigations. The British were able to use the German channels whenever they wanted. This

went on for several weeks and had to have had clearance at the highest levels. "Even allies are reluctant to allow one another to use their

line, even if they did not approve. It is absurd to therefore, suggest that ministers in Bonn knew, but that Cook and company did not," said the equipment. This was a unique Western agent.

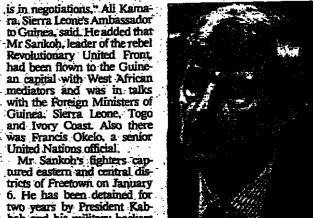
When the Government says it did not know, it is not telling the truth?

set-up and strongly implies that other members of the European Union — who often share their intelligence were, at the very least, aware what British diplomats were talking about with Sand-

☐ Abidjan: Sierra Leone's rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, was flown to neighbouring Guinea yesterday for talks about ending the fighting in Freetown, diplomats said.

Mr Sankoh's fighters cap-tured eastern and central dis-tricts of Freetown on January 6. He has been detained for two years by President Kab-bah and his military backers — the Nigerian-led West African force Ecomog. (Reuters)

United Nations official.



Penfold: Criticised for not

HELP EXPAND TO P

TRENONE CAN KAN

Cape Muslims threaten to avenge death

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

BOTH the South African Government and Muslim groups moved rapidly yesterday to defuse tension after the death of Yusuf Jacobs, the protester hit in the head by a police plastic bullet during a demonstration against last week's visit

Earlier, Salie Abadah, head of security for a Muslim vigilante group, had threatened that it would "make South Africa ungovernable", should Mr Jacobs die. Given the group's violent record and the parlous state of public order in Cape Town's Muslim community - last year saw about 600 terrorist incidents, including the explosion of 70 pipe bombs - this threat was being taken seriously by the police.

Mr Jacobs was shot during a protest by a pro-Iraqi group in the Cape call-ing itself Muslims Against Global Op-

pression. Mr Abadah, of the vigilante group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad), said yesterday that Mr Jacobs was also a member of Pagad, the first time a direct links between the two groups had been made.

It seemed, however, that the Government had struck a deal with Pagad. Azhar Cachalia, the Security Secretary ANC Government, announced that President Mandela will set up an inquest into Mr Jacobs's death.

Pagad spokesmen, meanwhile, said that a planned protest march after Mr Jacobs's funeral had been cancelled, and announced that they wanted to sit down with "good policemen" to discuss

The police, for their part, continued to insist that they fired on the demonstrators only after they saw them reaching for guns from a passing vehicle. The police also announced that they bedevelopment, which injured three people on New Year's Day, and the bomb attack in August, also at the Waterfront, which killed two people at a Planet Hollywood restaurant.

Earlier, there was a pipe-bomb attack on a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet in Cape Town. The chain is seen by Muslim extremists as a symbol of US consumer culture and it has told franchise-holders to step up security.

Most South Africans are bemused by the continuous rumble coming from Cape Town's 360,000-strong Muslim community and by the prominence which Islam has assumed in South Africa since 1994. Fewer than 2 per cent of the population are Muslim, but there are three Muslims in the Cabinet. Among Africans there is much resentful talk of "Mandela's Indians" and a general expectation that Thabo Mbeki,

lieve links exist between a car bomb once he takes over as President, will attack at Cape Town's Waterfront move to cut back sharply their num-

bers in government. Jakes Gerwel, the Cabinet Secretary, who is also the director-general of President Mandela's Office, is to travel to Libva to intercede with Colonel Gaddafi to surrender the two Lockerbie bomb suspects. The initiative, a direct ploit the special relationship between

Mr Mandela and Colonel Gadaffi. Ironically, the Government's links with Libya may also provide Pretoria with leverage in dealing with its Muslim extremists. The fact that the Cape Town bombings came so soon after the bombing of the US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last August has led most to assume that the Cape Town ter-rorists are acting at the behest of anti-American groups in the Arab world. If so, few are better placed than Colonel Gaddafi to exercise a restraining hand.

Harare editor held over 'revolt' report

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

MILITARY police yesterday maist at the newspaper's of-arrested the Editor of a Zimba-fices yesterday. They threatbwean newspaper after it reported that the authorities had arrested 23 soldiers for urging against President Mugabe.

Mark Chavunduka, 34, Editor of The Standard, was still. at Cranborne military barracks last night in the custody of the Army's special investigations branch. His lawyers were refused access. Clive Wilson. The Standard's proprietor, said an application for his release would be made to the High Court today.

Military and secret police also interrogated another jour-

fices yesterday. They threatened to use "other avenues of extracting information" when be refused to give them further

Earlier, Moven Mahachi, the Defence Minister, delivered an enraged attack on the country's independent press. He denounced as "treasonable" a series of critical reports about Zimbabwe's military operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo aimed at pre-venting President Kabila's overthrow by Tutsi rebels. Mr Mahachi denied The Standard's report of the 23

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Michael Jordan set to retire

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

MICHAELJORDAN, by common consent the greatest player in the history of basket-ball, is expected to announce his retirement this week after a record-breaking career that drew millions to his sport and billions to his backers.

Jordan, 35, who led the Chicago Bulls to six national championship titles and earned more than \$60 million (£36 million) in the past two years, excluding endorsement deals, will hang up his trademark black boots rather than play out a basketball season truncated by a bitter dispute between management and players, officials said.

Bald, 6ft 6in tall, and un-

matched in his athleticism and will to win, Jordan singlehandedly made basketball the most lucrative professional sport in America, pumping an estimated \$10 billion into the national economy over 13 seasons. Unlike many fellow stars, he provided the game with some of its most memorable moments without developing an arrogance to match, shrugging off controversy about a costly gambling habit to become, in one poll, one of Americans' "most respected newsmakers along with Mother Teresa, Abraham Lincoln and

Martin Luther King.
Jordan averaged 31.5 points a game over the course of his career, making him the National Basketball Association's Most Valuable Player a record five times. Cliffhangers were his speciality. He snatched the winning points in the final seconds in 26 NBA games.

Simon Barnes, page 40 and Britain.

New skirmish in no-fly zone as Britain turns for help to Iran

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

AMID growing tension in the Gulf an American Fl6 fighter fired on an Iraqi radar site in the northern no-fly zone yesterday, the sixth skirmish since the end of Operation Desert Fox more than three weeks

The latest action came as William Cohen, the US Secre-tary of Defence, claimed that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's new refusal to recognise no-fly zones demonstrated that he was becoming increasingly 'frantic and agitated". In response to the deepening

crisis, a senior British official will today hold talks with leaders in Iran, which said it was working towards a peaceful so-lution. Derek Plumbley will be the most senior Foreign Office official to visit Iran since the Islamic Republic distanced itself from the farwa against Sal-

man Rushdie last September. "Iran is an important regional player and a valid interlocutor on Iraq," a Foreign Office spokesman said. Mr Plumbley, the Foreign Office director for the Middle East and North Africa, will also discuss other bilateral issues during his two-day visit.

Mr Plumbley's trip follows continued efforts by Iraq to improve relations with its former Gulf enemy. Iraq told a visiting Iranian envoy yesterday that it was keen to boost ties and formally invited Vice-President Hassan Habibi to Baghdad for talks.

The US Secretary of Delence, visiting Japan, said Saddam appeared to be increasingly cornered since the end of the cruise missile and bombing raids by America

Mr Cohen claimed that the four days of attacks in December were "one of the most successful" military operations ever carried out and as a result Saddam was now "starting to act up".
"He is lashing out verbally.

rhetorically, against the Saudis, against the Egyptians, against the Kuwaitis," Mr Cohen said. He vowed that America would give no ground in enforcing the no-fly zone restrictions and warned that Saddam's forces would pay a penalty for continuing to attack or lock on to US and British aircraft with radar

In yesterday's fracas, an Fl6 fired a missile at a radar site near the city of Mosul in northern Iraq and returned safely to its base in Turkey. The American pilot had picked up a signal from an early-warning radar that was considered a

With tempers running high, America is boosting its air power over southern Iraq with eight additional Flos and four aerial tankers, bringing its aircraft in the region to 200. In addition. Kuwait has put part of its military on full, combatready alert in response to Iraqi "threats" to Gulf Arab states.

Against this backdrop, Iran has emerged as a potentially valuable regional mediator. Hours before the tranian envoy, Mohammed Reza Sadr. met senior Iraqi officials yes-terday, Iran's Foreign Ministry chided Baghdad for apparently renewing its territorial claim to Kuwait. It added that Mr Sadr would visit "other regional countries" with a view to resolving the crisis through

مكدلس الإصل



Cohen: speaking of Iraq in Japan yesterday

diplomatic means. Tehran has condemned last month's allied airstrikes and frequently expresses sympathy for ordinary Iraqis, but it has also urged Baghdad to respect United Nations Sécurity Council resolutions, particularly on disarma-

Iran was on the receiving end of Iraqi chemical weapons attacks during their eight-year war. Iranian officials have also blamed Saddam for giving America the pretext to boost its military presence in the Gulf

The Penragon, meanwhile, is claiming that damage caused by Operation Desert Fox was more sovere than initially reported. Unconfirmed intelligence reports suggested that the raids had killed 600 to 1,600 members of Saddam's

to General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Earlier, senior Ameri-can officers had deliberately avoided such ambiguous "body counts", a practice that contributed hugely to a credibility gap before the war in Vietnam was lost. As evidence of anti-Saddam

discord in the southern no fly zone, the US State Department said "opposition sources" had ascertained that summary executions of suspect mil-itary officers and dissident civilians had reached nearly 500 in the past two months.

Among the victims were the commanding general and sen-ior staff officers of the 11th Mechanised Division. But while Saddam may

seem increasingly isolated, so too are Britain and the US at the Security Council in wanting to maintain both military pressure and sanctions against Iraq. There are concerns in Washington that the three other permanent members - Russia, China and France — will find support for a softer approach towards Iraq from four countries that have just become council members: Malaysia, Namibia, Can-ada and the Netherlands.

The political battle also involves the future, if any, for Unscom, the weapons inspectorate. Its chairman, Richard Butler, insisted that it was "not dead" even though his inspectors have all been expelled by Baghdad and he has suspend. ed flights by American U2 spy planes over Iraq.

The security search for a less intrusive role for Unscom could lead to the departure of Mr Butler, whose dismissal was again demanded by Russia.

Jerusalem hunt for serial killer

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahn, gave a warning yesterday that a would-be Jewish serial murderer had been in action again in Jerosalem after an Arab in his fifties was knifed near the ultra-Orthodox Jewish district of Mea Shearim. Mr Netanyahu said that the police were actively pursuing the assailant, who might have been responsible for eight previous stabbings since November 1997, two of them fatal and all following roughly the same pattern.
The latest attack came less than 24 hours after police had ordered extra security precautions around the Wailing Wall, Judaism's most

sacred site, in reaction to threats of a grenade attack against Jewish worshippers by Islamic extremists. Israel radio reported that the 57-year-old victim was stabbed near Mea Shearim

at about 5.30am as he was on his way to work. Last month an Arab man who was also on his way to work was stabbed with a knife whose markings led the police to suspect a Jewish

extremist. "It looks like the same serial murderer that we are looking for. I still cannot say this definitively, but that is the way it appears," Mr Netanyahu said as the investigation

continued. Yair Yitzhaki, Jerusalem's police commander, cited the district, the time of the attack, and the single knife wound as elements that made the latest attack similar to the previous

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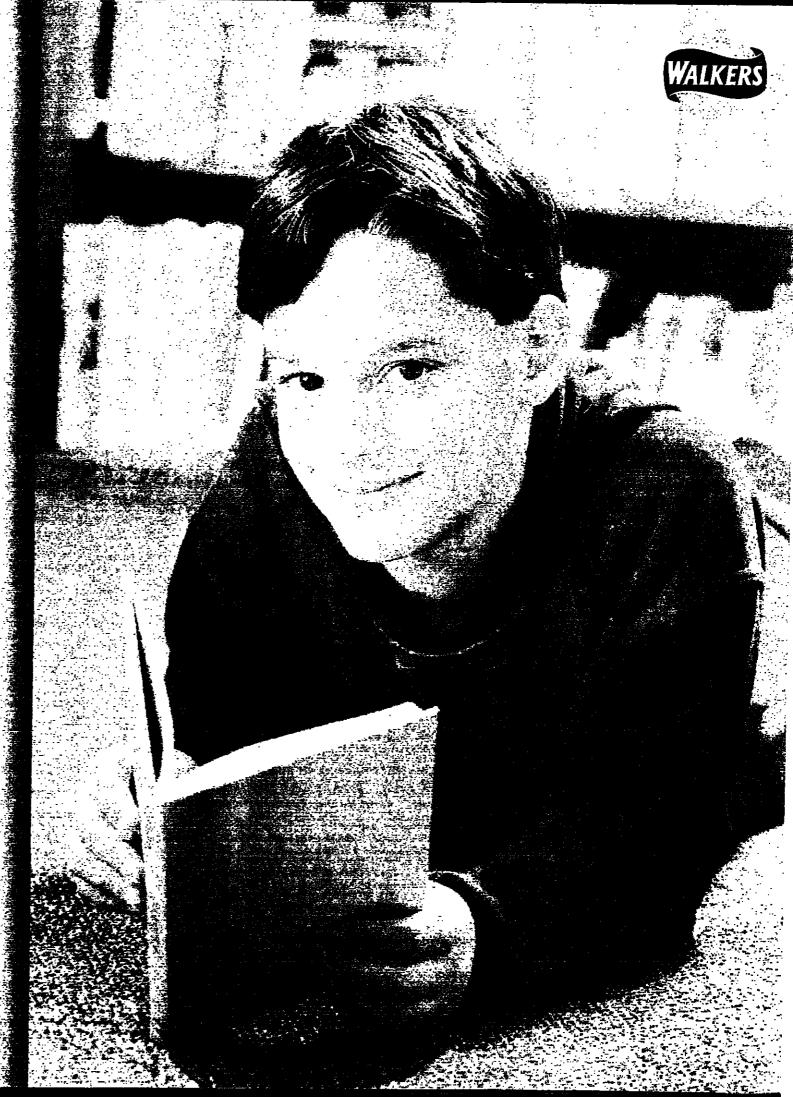
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SEE THE BACK PAGE OF SECTION ONE FOR TODAY'S TOKEN

CHARLES NOTE MISS

What happens if the bugs take over?

The first speaker in our Scientists for the New Century lecture series explains how antibiotics are losing the war against deadly bacteria. Interview by Anjana Ahuja

doorn appeared. With provocative titles such as The Coming Plague, they foresaw an apocalyptic future where su-perbugs would reign supreme with antibiotics powerless to stop them_

Some experts viewed these predictions as scaremongerng. Others, including Dr Martin Westwell, a young scientist from Oxford University who has been studying the structure of antibiotics, thought these nightmarish visions were disturbingly plausible. "In 1963, the Surgeon-General in America said it was time to close the book on infectious disease," Dr Westwell says. "But now we have Lords select committees discussing strategies to combat infections because drug-resistant bacteria is such a massive problem."

As Dr Westwell will reveal on January 27 at London's Royal Institution in the opening lecture of the Scientists for the

everal years ago, a New Century series, spon-rash of books pro-sored by *The Times*, bacteria nouncing medical that are resistant to all known antibiotics have begun to

> "In the late Eighties, it was shown that bacteria could gain resistance to Vancomycin, which is sometimes called the antibiotic of last resort." the 27-year-old chemist recalls. "Then a few years later, one case popped up in Japan and two in America. There was nothing that doctors could do for them except give them lots of antibiotics in the hope that they might help the patient's immune system to recover."

The immune system of those patients managed to outwit the bacterial invaders and, fortunately, no more cases have been reported. But scientists know that it could be just a matter of time. Once an antibiotic is introduced, it typically takes only a few years for a bacterium to acquire resistance to it.

'It isn't overdramatic to say we are on the edge of an apoca-



Dr Martin Westwell: "If we go back to a time when antibiotics are useless, and people have to go into hospital because they have an infection; the NHS will go under"

lypse," Dr Westwell says in his gentle Wigan accent. "If these bugs get a foothold in hospitals, we are going to be defenceless in the war against infection. At the moment, large hospitals employ doctors and nurses to keep tabs on what is going on, to make sure the bugs don't take over. For example, if the virulent MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) bug is found, wards are closed and everyone is isolated until the infection is cleared. But smaller hospitals and nursing homes don't always have such measures in place, so there is always a risk of bugs

getting out. We could go over the precipice at any time."
That, Dr Westwell says. would be an absolute disaster for the NHS. "The NHS was saved by antibiotics because

stead of going into hospital." he explains.

We've just seen the flu criwhich shows how stretched everything is. If we go back to a time when antibiotics are useless, and people have to go into hospital be-cause they have an infection. the NHS will go under."
However, there is hope on

the horizon in the shape of LY333328, a compound found in the soils of Borneo which is being tested by the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical company. It appears capable of exterminating the bugs that the most potent current antibiotics - Vancomycin included - cannot

Meanwhile, Dr Westwell. who holds a Glaxo junior research fellowship in biological and medicinal sciences, is one people could just go and get of many scientists who hope to Research Sciences Council or medicine from their doctor in- design molecules that can com- the Biological and Research isn't enough money to go more intellectual freedom. He body."

bat the superbugs. To design such drugs though, experts must deduce exactly how antibiotics extinguish harmful bacteria. Yet, despite the importance of these drugs, fundamental knowledge of how they go about their business is surprisingly hazy.

his is one reason why Dr Westwell accepted the fellowship at Oxford rather than a position at Harvard University. He sets his own research agenda, which allows him much greater independence. The alternatives are working under the guidance of a senior scientist and so restricting his area of study, or seeking funding from a government re-search organisation — such as the Engineering and Physical

Sciences Council - which rarely allocates money for very basic science.

Moreover, it is almost impossible for relative novices with no track record to obtain money. The usual practice is for a young scientist to apply in the name of a senior member of a department; sadly, resulting success is not always. credited to the right person.

Like many other talented young researchers trying to make a name for themselves. Dr Westwell finds the system frustrating: "I have no individual track record, so I would find it hard to get funding, but how do you get a track record in the first place if nobody funds you?"

Promise is no guarantee. Dr Westwell says he has seen toprated research proposals fall

around. The result, he says, is a "do or die" culture in the higher echelons of science: "To suryive, you really have to be at

the top of your field." He is making a sacrifice for his independence - although bearing the prestigious Glaxo name, his fellowship pays less than a standard research position. These jobs are modestly remunerated; a 25-year-old researcher who has just attained a PhD can expect a starting salary at a university of about

Dr. Westwell's wife Valerie works as a mathematics teacher to boost the family income (they have a one-year-old son. Charlie). Supporting a family and paying a mortgage would be no problem on an industry salary, he says, but he will stick with universities because

£16.000.

hopes to become a lecturer within five years and top up his salary by taking commercial advantage of his research. The Times's sponsorship of

tury lectures reflects growing concerns that, even thoug they conduct work that could have an enormous impact on our lives, the contributions of young scientists are not always recognised. This is also reflected in their social status. "To be considered a cultured

nerson, vou have to know about the arts and about music and books," Dr Westwell says. "I think that to be a fully rounded person, you should be able to read science articles in the newspaper and be able to talk about it, have doesn't have to be highfalutin.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN SCIENTISTS FOR THE NEW CENTURY in the first of a new series of lectures starting

on Wednesday January 27, Dr Martin Westwell, a young chemist from Oxford University, will young chemist from Oxford University, will describe the war against superbugs. As well as explaining how ambiotics work, he will discuss the frightening prospect that, for the first time in the history of medicine, we have no weapons with which to fight the most deadly infections.

The talk will be introduced by Professor Susan Greenfield, director of the Royal Institution. There will be the opportunity for questions from the

The lecture will be held at 7.30pm at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BS.

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Shedding new light on an eye disease

or the first time a treatment has been developed that can slow down or halt the progress of macular degeneration, the most common cause of blindness in the elderly. The condition affects 16,000 people a year in Britain, and Simon Harding, consultant ophthalmic surgeon at St Paul's Eye Unit of the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, says that the new treatment will offer "some significant benefit" to a third of new cases.

It uses photodynamic therapy in which a drug injected into the body is activated when it reaches the site of a disease by shining light on it. The Liverpool unit has been part of a study of 609 patients at 22 centres in America and Europe, from which the first year's results

are a third more likely to retain stable or improved vision than those treated with a placebo. Macular degeneration affects about a tenth of people over the age of 65. In its most severe, wet" form, it causes rapid deterioration of vision and most sufferers are registered blind within two years. Some vision survives, but it becomes impossible to read, drive or watch TV. Some patients can be helped by laser treatments, but the great majority cannot. The new treatment has been developed by QLT Photo-therapeutics, of Vancouver, Canada, and Ciba Vision Corporation, a division of the Novartis drug giant, which have applied for licences in America, Europe and Canada, it helps only newly diagnosed cases, not those who have

already lost vision. Patients are first injected

have emerged. They show that treated patients



BRIEFING

Nigel

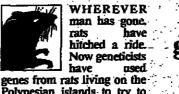
Hawkes

with a light-sensitive dye, called Visudyne, by infusing it into a vein. The process takes ten minutes, and then patients wait a further five minutes for the dye to be picked up by molecules in the blood called lipoproteins and circulated throughout the body.

The second stage involves shining a laser into the eye to activate the dye. The cause of the wet form of macular degeneration is the pro-liferation of new blood vessels in the retina, the light-sensitive part of the eye. Fluid leaking from these vessels robs the eye of its precise vision. The effect of shining red

light into the eye is to activate the dye, producing highly reactive oxygen radicals which seal off the blood vessels. preventing leakage and damage. The laser does not produce any hear, so does not damage other parts of the retina. Side-effects are virtually non-existent, says Mr Harding — only a few cases of back pain and tenderness at the site of injection. After treatment the patients have to wear dark glasses for 24 hours.

The results show that in 61.4 per cent of those treated with Visudyne, vision was stable or improved, compared with 45.9 per cent of those treated with dummy injections. This means that the treated group were 34 per cent more likely to retain their vision. "This may not seem a huge difference, but if you or I had the condition we would jump at it," says Mr Harding. He expects the treatment to become widely available within the next year, subject to licensing approval, and is organising courses at Liverpool to train ophthalmic surgeons to do it.



Polynesian islands to try to trace the history of human migration there. Linguistic and archaeological evidence has already provided strong hints of how human beings spread through the region 3,500 years ago. But confirming this by studying human DNA is a problem because indigenous populations fell victim to European diseases at the end of the 19th century. That makes it difficult to be

sure that DNA from modern

Rats show glimpse of the past

Polynesians is representative of the original population.

Rats suffered no such setbacks, so Dr Lisa Matisoo-Smith, at the University of Aukland, looked at them. She studied a section of mitochondrial DNA, the sort that is passed down the maternal line unchanged and mutates at a steady rate, providing an evolutionary clock. Rat DNA mutates more quickly than human DNA, so there has been

plenty of time for separate lin-eages to develop in Polynesia. The results, reports Science Now, confirm earlier suggestions that the Southern Cook and Society Islands formed the focus from which migration to other islands began. This is clear evidence that people were moving about quite a lot," she says. An exception is found on Chatham Island, whose rats belong to a single related group, suggesting that this island was isolated from the rest.

 Dr Patrick Kirch, an anthropologist from the University of California at Berkeley. says: "It's nice to have confirmation of the work in archaeology and linguistics."

TB or not TB, that is a question answered



THE creation of the new International Centre for Life in New-castle has pro-vided an opportuntity for investigating death. The centre is being built on the site of the old New-

castle Infirmary, immortalised in the Geordie anthem-Blaydon Races, where many victims of tuberculosis were buried_ Infirmary records suggest that 27.1 per cent of those who

in the burial ground between 1753 and 1845 suffered from But how reliable were the

died there and were interred

diagnoses? A team led by Dr

Angela Gernaey and Dr David Minnikin, of the University of Newcastle, examined bones from 210 skeletons which were recovered during excavation for the new foundations: and tested them for mycolic acids - long-chain lipids that are "markers" of TB infection, which is caused by Mycobacte-rium tuberculosis. They wore gloves and masks in case any of the bacteria were still infec-

The team reports in Internet Archaeology — an online journal to be found at http://www.intarch.ac.uk that 24 per cent of the ribs from the burial ground tested positive for mycolic acid, a nice corroboration of the

records. DNA has also been used to detect TB in ancient bones, but the team believes that mycolic acid may be a more reliable marker. Since tuberculosis is strongly linked to poverty, the test may also be useful for assessing how wealthy, and how well-fed, our ancestors really were.





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Dig that dancing queen? She's about to give birth

grid, our matronly Scandinavian birthing instructor, "this" weekend course is specially designed for Manhattan couples with impossible schedules. I will try to squeeze in what would normally take a whole week of evening classes." She passes round badges with our first names filled our and a blank space in which she instructs us to write in our hobbies, "so you can get to

know each other over lunch". Peter fills out our badges. "What shall I say your hobby is?" he asks. "Oh, I don't know. I don't really have a hobby." I say, irritably. He writes "reading pregnancy manuals". On his own badge he writes "watching televi-sion". The woman sitting next to us earnestly writes down running marathons".

"Now let's have some dancing," shouts Sigrid, hunching over her boombox. "I am Swedish, so we will have Abba." The stuffy room on the ilth floor of St Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital is soon resonating to "You can dance! You can jive/Having the time

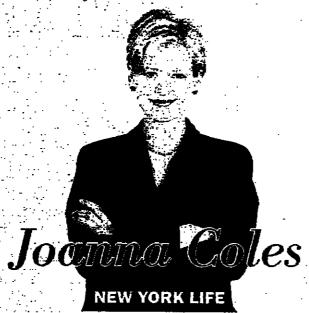
of your life/See that girl/ Watch that scene/Digging the dancing queen ..."

"Up. up." shouts Sigrid, pulling us out of our chairs to lumber around the room, feeling ludicrous and not digging the dancing queen one bit.
"Splendid, let's get the circulation going." She swings her

arms like a Canadian Air Force instructor. It is 9.30am and I am al-

ready birth classed-out. You cannot have a baby in Man-hattan without being bullied into attending dozens of these classes. Maternity tours, interviews with obstetricians, prenatal and maternal fitness: classes, I have obediently attended them all. We even spent one Friday evening at a St Luke's film night, watching programmes of births going wrong to prepare us for the possibility of a Caesarean section. And now one of our precious weekends is to be spent on a weekend crammer course with four pregnant couples whom we have never met and a fierce Swedish matron.

To be fair, the four other



schedules" look similarly fed up. One of the putative fathers, Bill, a biochemist (hobby: sports) has already positioned himself at the back of the group so he can secretly

offs on his Walkman, much to his wife's embarrassment. "I normally wear a button saying Birth is Normal, but this suit has just been drycleaned so I forgot," announces Signid. "Banana, anyone?"

As Abba fades out, she

divides us into two groups by gender and asks us to construct lists of best and worst things about having a child. Not being able to tie your shoes up," suggests Anna-Marie, the marathon runner

هيئ زمن ريم

and also, it turns out, a chemistry professor. Pressure at work," says Susan grimly. "I'm an attorney. I'm due in two weeks, I'm in the office by 9am and 1'm not home until 8pm." She looks grey with exhaustion. "I get four weeks paid maternity

eave and that's considered

good, for a lawyer." The worst list fills up quickly: pain, lack of freedom, financial worries, family tensions. But apart from the baby itself, we have few sug-gestions for the best list. Well, it stops you being so self-obsessed." I offer finally.

"But is that a good thing, I wonder?" asks the lawyer. After ten minutes the men shuffle back in and, under Sigrid's instruction, we compare lists. Although our worst lists are almost identical, the men's best list is much more optimistic and includes "eve-

rything changes; becoming a family: having a new playmate: getting to watch cartoons; cuddling; genetic immortality". Sigrid, a veteran of 30 years' teaching, seems briefly nonplussed at this dis-parity. "Hrmm, professional

York find the birth experience more difficult because they've been used to being in control for so long," she sighs, finally. Thirty years ago, when she ar-

epidural rived here armed with her master's in the ry from Sweden she was appalled parking lot to discover that American women in labour

woke up two days later to discover they had a baby. "As a result, we lost a generation of birthing stories. Now, what is the expectation of women giving birth in America today?

had a general anaesthetic and

"Pain?" winces the lawyer.
"Right," cries Sigrid. "You

have such terrible pain that you are going to need a lot of drugs to get through it."

'Are you kidding? I want the epidural in the parking lot," says Anna-Marie. Well in Europe - in Brit-

ain, for example," Sigrid continues. nodding at Peter Are you and me. "people don't tell each othkidding er such awful pain stories." Resisting the urge to contra-I want my Bill, who is fiddling with his Walkman. "Have you got your nursery sorted out yet?" I ask, aware that his baby is

weeks. "Well, we have moved some books," he says, bleakly.

Sunday: The second morning of our course takes on the character of a drama workshop as Signid assures us that the fastest way to learn is through role play. This morn-

tion. I am appointed senior anaestherist and spend the next ten minutes pretending while Peter, playing the surgeon, pretends to slice into the abdomen of Anna-Marie, the patient. Sigrid assures us that the easiest way to avoid being overwhelmed by a C-section is to learn all about it.

"Hey, it's just like ER," says Bill, referring to last week's episode in which a man drove his wife, who was in labour, to the hospital but managed to cause a fatal car accident on the way and ended up being dragged away by police just before his wife gave birth. "Oh God," cries Sigrid crossly. "I've been a consultant to all those damn shows and they drive me nuts, I tell you. You always see the birthing mother screaming and groaning and carrying on like bloody murder. They have to do that to make it exciting, for the drama, right? But that's

Just another upper class junkie..

The Marquess of Bristol, Britain's most notorious drug user, was not unique. Heroin is a powerful lure to those who seem to have everything, says former addict Sean Thomas

or most people, this week's obituaries of Frederick John Hervey, the 7th Marquess of Bristol and Britain's most notorious heroin addict, who Ladbroke Grove and you will was found dead in his home at see them: moneyed junkies weekend, must have seemed full of almost uniquely cies, estates, and inheritances, sad phrases. Here was the on class A drugs. "charismatic" heir to a "beauti-ful Suffolk estate", a "highly cratic (like the Marquess of generous" aristocrat pos-sessed of an "arrogant and dashing charm who nonetheless squandered his "immense fortune" on "drugs, lavish parties, cars, helicopters and Hervey's arrogant and dashyachts" before dying a "pathet-

ic" semi-cripple at 44.

To anyone who has been a heroin addict, these facts and phrases are not uniquely sad. They are, on the contrary, pre-dictable and familiar. The to locate Daddy to arrange an-

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orang-utans in Borneo, join a Zulu tribe for lanch in:

more bohemian purlieus of Notting Hill, Mayfair, Chel-sea and beyond are full of tragic cases like Johnny Hervey. Walk down the King's Road or wasting trust funds and lega-

Blandford), some merely rich; some of them have famous parents (like the late Olivia Channon), some are infamous themselves. Many have Johnny ing charm", all lead desperately limited, desperately repetitive lives — mostly spent sit-ting by the phone in squalid flats waiting for their dealers to return their calls, or trying

other loan so as to afford the next quarter of an ounce.

I well know this type, the up-

per-class junkie, because for several years I was also a heroin addict in London and I ran into more than a few of them. It is impossible not to. Central London's hard drug scene (and by hard drugs I mean, imarily, cocaine and heroin is like a small town within a town, a hidden and incestuous village, a tightly knit network of dealers, contacts, clinics and "well-known addresses".

The drugs underworld is also surprisingly egalitarian: the need for drugs is a great equaliser. Thus it is possible for the crackhead from Hoxton to use the same dealer as the junked-up ambassador's daughter from Kensington, or the poor little rich coke-snorter from Belgravia to end up sharing a needle with the homeless Glaswegian car thief.

I might have been a fairly or-dinary, middle-class addict but I think I once saw Johnny Hervey doing coke in a smoky basement flat in Fulham; I can't be sure because I was too stoned. I do know that I have bumped into the Blandfords and Channons of this underworld. I have stared blankly across the same glass-topped tables. I have used the same rolled-up £20 notes to sniff the same "China white". I have sat waiting for the same courier to deliver the same cocaine in the

same Hampstead penthouses. Usually the glass-topped tables and Hampstead penthouses were theirs. Upper-class junkies are nothing if not highly generous" and hospitatheir vice, and doing heroin can be the most desperately bleak sad godless solitary existence imaginable.

chances and opportunities, with the best educations and circumstances that money can buy, do so many rich and well-born people fall prey to hard drug addiction? It is easy to understand the appeal of a powerful analgesic such as heroin to someone stuck on the seventh floor of an inner city tower block. It is easy to appreciate how you might want to numb your mind and senses if all you could see ahead of you was another week on the dole. But why would an Eton-educated millionaire, heir to a Caribbean villa and a castle in Scotland, want to do the same?

The answer is that the two ends of the social spectrum share one curse: unemployment. People who are rich already have little to do except to make more money. Second and third, and fourth, and fifth) generation rich people have even less to do: their money and status are taken for granted. Ennui and boredom are therefore the most feared



Shooting up: "Weeks pass and all you have done is to repeat the cycle of the addict's life — score, consume, get stoned"

enemies of the poor little rich girl or boy. And you can only have so many "cars, helicop-ters and yachts" before even cars and helicopters and

Which is where heroin comes in. As anyone who has tried the drug will know, heroin is a sovereign remedy for taedium vitae. On heroin, time ceases to exercise its grip. Hours, days, lives can fly by and all you have done is to sit in your flat and dribble. Weeks can pass and all you have done is to repeat the endless but somehow comforting cycle of the drug addict's life: score, consume, get stoned, score, consume, get stoned. For people with no job, who do

yachts start to pall.

not need a job, who would nev-er conceive of demeaning themselves with something as common as a job, heroin addiction is a job. It gives shape and purpose to otherwise shape-

less, purposeless lives. The second reason that I believe heroin appeals to the rich, noble and leisured is its dangerous "glamour", its subversive image. For those stu-pid enough, like me, to try heroin in the first place, it exercises an allure because it is seen as somehow chic, as intriguingly nihilistic, as amusingly antisocial and transgressive. And it's so easy, if you want people to see you as cool and cynical, as sophisticated and daring, but you are too lazy or

The Marquess of Bristol, heroin addict, pictured in 1996

dim to do anything serious about it - like become a soldier, or train to be an artist how much easier simply to take heroin.

This spurious attraction of heroin as a short cut to "coolness" is assisted by the that the drug reinforces the dict's self-esteem, by para ing any self-critical facul that might lurk in the psy-Thus the painfully anor junkie sees herself as fashio bly thin; the desperately ing addict sees himself suavely aloof.

¬ he upper-class jur might seem a m ern phenomer but there are hist cal parallels. Consider the ision with duelling in 18th and 19th centuries. F was another dangerous, po bly fatal, certainly pointless crously nihilistic pursuit c demned by polite society but dulged in certain upper-cl circles. Like heroin, duell had glamour: like heroin, it lieved the awful boredon the leisured life. The Frei toffs of Les Liaisons D *gereuses* would, these days, smoking freebase in Cadou Square instead of slaughter each other with sabres. Lest I seem to be glamo

ing heroin myself, however should add that there is o big difference between the upper-class vices. When 18 century aristos were not m dering each other at day they were running the wo and discovering vaccines a writing Don Juan. When mo ern upper-crust junkies not doing junk, all they are ing is trying to find more it so they can do more junk they don't have to go out a find any more junk for while. As the wretched Ma quess of Bristol would no doubt attest if only he had the chance, cocaine and heroin are, in truth, about as glamorous as meths. Only more expensive. And more moronic.

THE FACTS

not the true experience," she

assures us. "Remember, birth

is normal. Write it down.

Birth is normal."

■ USERS agree that heroin now the most fashionable of all the so-called recreational arugs with the young. Diamorphine to give the killer its clinical name, gives a sense of extraordinary wellbelessly destroying every victim too weak to quit.

■ TODAY the drug is easily available in every city and town in the country. And "smack" is cheap too; at £20 a gram it is a third cheaper than its class A rival, cocaine

THE drug can be snorted. injected into veins or smoked - "chasing the dragon". Addiction is as inevitable as death and taxes.

MAIN producers of the opium poppy, from which heroin is produced, include Turkey, Mexico. Iran and Lebanon. But the big fields are in the socalled Golden Triangle running from Laos through Cambodia and Burma.

■ THE hazards of heroin use are appalling: appetite loss, convulsions, vomiting, loss of bowel control, sleeplessness, rotting teeth, impotence in men, infertility in women, and death.

Extant former users include Rolling Stones Keith Richards and Charlie Watts, Eric Clapton, Jamie Blandford, Lou Reed and several supermodels who cannot be named for legal reasons.

Among those who paid the ultimate price jazzmen Char-lie Parker and Miles Davis: Jim Morrison of The Doors: Sid Vicious of the Sex Pistols.

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Olé for the tangoing President

ike him or not, you have to admit that President Clinton is amazing. Judged on resilience, he beats all other politicians in the United States hands down.

On Monday night, he led a tango around the White House floor after the state banquet for President Menem of Argentina, wriggling and swooping with a huge grin on his face Earlier, he had bounced round the Detroit Motor Show, telling company - to nervous laughs that his beloved first car, a Mustang, did not have very good brakes.

On more serious ground, he is firmly set on delivering his State of the Union speech on Tuesday, a chance to remind the American people that the state of the union is indeed great. The economy is barely slowing, the Dow Jones is back to its high points, the dollar is rising against the

Behind the scenes, his ll-strong legal team has launched a ferocious desence to the charges against him, denying that he committed perjury or obstruction of justice or that he has done anything to deserve being thrown out of of office.

It is a genuinely impressive display. Mr Clinton may have no self-restraint, but he is undeniably tough. His response, when attacked, is to keep going. It is at least one of the qualities you might want in a leader. It is not surprising that the many Americans who still like, or tolerate, Mr Clinton are so reluctant to see

him thrown out. Contrast that with the Senate's stuffy hamfistedness this week, as it found itself finally in the spotlight. Of the many admirable fea-tures of the US Constitution, one of the greatest is the inclusion of a formal procedure for deciding whether the President should be

Maddox sacked. But as the process is playing

out now in Washington, it risks becoming a farce. The Capitol, rising from its snowcovered hill against a dark blue sky, is a backdrop against which any politician looks like a Founding Father. And don't they know it? Senators - who now refer to themselves as the President's jurors — have stood in front of the nation's television cameras in belowfreezing temperatures for 20 minutes on end. They have perfected the look: a herringbone overcoat, perhaps with velvet collar, a woollen scarf, under a cap of pure white hair of the kind Washington does so well. The faces are timeless and could grace a banknote or

coin from any century.

The words, though, are instantly perishable in their ponderous search for importance. In a town where politicians speak as if testing each phrase for inscription on their own memorial, scores have declaimed: "We are on trial, in how we conduct ourselves, not just the President." Again and again, we have heard them recite George Washington's notion that the Senate is the saucer in which legislation is poured to be cooled, after being heated in the boiling passions of the House. For extra historical weight, dozens have invoked the Senate's Roman predecessor. The taste for classical references provoked gentle satire even from the sober Washington Post, which teased Democrat Robert Byrd for mentioning Plutarch, Aeschylus, Solon, Hero-dotus, Thucydides, Polybius and Xenophon within the space of 80 minutes, but apparently being unsure of Monica Lewinsky's name.

The best antidote to the Senate this week was to walk the frozen mile down the Mall to the new monument to FDR. Spread over a couple of acres, the craggy building blocks are inscribed with dozens of his genuinely memorable speeches, from "I hate war" to "Demoralisation caused by vast unemployment is our greatest extravagance".

But the memorial is also a reminder that the crises he faced deserved that language. The Senate's problem is that its subject does not warrant grandeur. The trial comes down to a debate about whether the President fied when he said he did not touch Ms Lewinsky's genitals, and whether it matters if he did. Part of this week's pom-

posity stems from senators' frustration. You can have a sliver of sympathy. They have been elected after campaigns of numbing expense to what they have been told are among the most prestigious positions in national life. Chosen for six years, they pride themselves on being more "statesmanlike" than House representatives, elected for two-year terms. But for the past four years, since Newt Gingrich's 1994 Republican Revolution, the television screens have

been filled with House members, unruly younger siblings noisily seizing hold of the legislative agenda. The Senite's main distinction has been to cool any reforms to

> ing. It has initiated some minor legisla-tion, but has blocked scores of judicial, administrative and ambassadorial nominations from the White House, grotesquely undermining the Administra-

the point of freez-

tion. It also helped

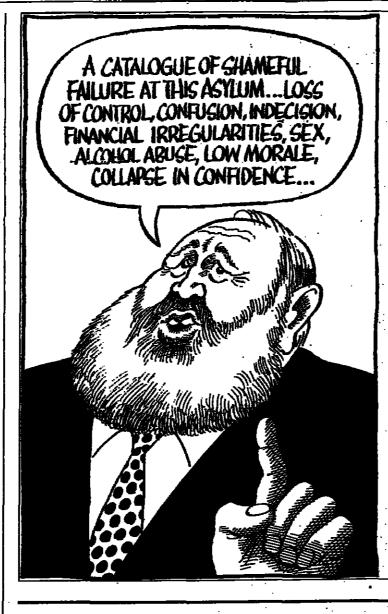
to squash attempts

at campaign finance reform. Against that record, we can see what is going to happen. The Senate will have the chance after the opening statements to throw out the whole matter. It is unlikely to take it. given how fond its members seem of the attention. So it will have a trial of sorts - longer by months if it calls witnesses.

7 hile that process continues, there remains a tiny chance that public opinion will finally swing against Mr Clinton, and that two thirds of senators will find in themselves a need to expel him from office. But it is much more likely that public opinion will stay where it has throughout the saga: firmly against Mr Clinton's early exit. It is then hard to imagine the Senate throwing him out. More likely, it will arrive many weeks from now at a formal expression of censure, the position that

many senators already hold. Many people are understandably uneasy at the image of the happily tangoing President, shrugging off all the charges against him. But the public is still right in its unchanging view that his behaviour does not warrant his removal from office. Much of the Senate appears to agree. If it wants to earn the historical compliments it has showered on itself, it should throw

out the trial next week. comment@the-times.co.uk





Thatcher's fifth term

fier the Project and the Launch comes the Relaunch. You move forward or you die. This week the Blair Government staged a bizarre ministerial floorshow, ostensibly to divert attention from the pre-Christmas resignations. The relaunch was long planned as a mid-term boost to the Cabinet's image, but the seasonal bloodletting gave it a sensational

overture.

Relaunches are for connoisseurs.

The shrewd general always awaits the second offensive. The wise executive delays his move to head the rescue team. Never buy the prototype, always the redesign. Now that the Government is entering its stride, we have seen the back of those who stood forward in 1997, of the Mandelsons, Robinsons, Whelans and Drapers. They passed muster in the trenches, but not at the chateau HQ. It took Harold Wilson two years to be rid of the human impedimenta of Opposition, and Margaret Thatcher three years. Tony Blair is putting his past behind him with impressive speed.

Out too has gone the old spin, of community, fairness and decentral-ism. In their place appears the phraseology of power. The relaunch is said to be about modernisation, discipline and leadership, especially leadership. In a speech this week, Gordon Brown eulogised Mr Blair in terms reminiscent of a Maoist acolyte. A stream of other speeches gushes from Downing Street's dev-il's kitchen, vetted for political correctness. I have read them. They claim that the new, non-squabble Cabinet has set itself to "deliver on its election promises ... push foward with modernising Britain ... and deliver clear leadership at home and abroad". These speeches are awful. Mr Blair makes John Major seem a Cicero and Mrs Thatcher a veritable Demosthenes. I defy anyone to

distil novelty from such waffle. But nothing in politics should be taken at face value. The key to this week's Blair relaunch is the lack of anything new to say. And that lack is due to nothing of substance having been launched in the first place. This week's vacuity is embarrassing only to those who misunder-stood the original project. It was, as the trickle of Blairite memoirs attest, simply to win power. Now that power is won, the project is to keep it. The essence of Blairism, as the

bard said, "gives to airy nothing but a local habitation and a name". One of the abiding jokes of British politics is that defeating Mr Major in 1997 required of Mr Blair and his The world according to Blair is an eerily familiar place, far from Liberty Hall

team superhuman skills of political genius. Another is that this victory instigated a revolution to rank with the fall of the Bastille and the St Petersburg uprising. The true achievement of the Blair team more properly the Kinnock-Smith-Blair continuum - was more modest. It was to crush the Labour Left. After that, an ape could have beaten the Tories in 1997. No less hilarious is the concept of revolution. There is hardly an action taken

by the Government over the past 18 months that would not have emerged from Whitehall had the moon changed and Mr Major scrambled back to Downing Street. This week has

seen neo-Thatcherism rampant. The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, continued to make his predecessor, Michael Howard. Yesterday he ended Labour's opposition to "threestrikes" mandatory sentencing, and extended the invasion of judicial discre-

tion to property crime. He expects to add a further 4,000 young people to Britain's overloaded prisons. Liberalism on crime is now a defunct ideology. The same is true of education. David Blunkett is reimposing Victorian payment by examination results on teachers. At the weekend he proposed privatising local authorities, an innovation at which even the Tories had balked. His edicts on hornework, family reading, truancy and league tables would come well from a Wackford

At Health, Frank Dobson is hoist on his party's own petard. In Opposition Labour treated health politics as an exercise in statistical terrorism. Mr Dobson is now condemned to death by a thousand waiting lists. When he demands a cut in lists, people die for emergency beds. When he offers more money to nurses, he loses money for drugs. He is another Virginia Bottomley: those who seek credit for everything

are blamed for everything. Over at Social Security, the new regime may or may not clean the Augean stables left by the Tories. One thing is certain, life is going to get tougher for claimants, not easier. Workfare. like pensions reform, are mainstream Thatcherite policies that the Tories never had the guts to implement. The same is true of legal aid. Tube privatisation and the sale of air traffic control. There is not a drop of "social-ism" to any of this.

Defence and overseas are no different. The Government has kept the Tory nuclear submarines, the Eurofighter project and proposed a new generation of aircraft carriers. In foreign affairs Labour is as tied to the coat-tails of America after the Cold Thatcher (more excusably) during it. In Iraq and Kosovo, Mr Blair loves his role as bombardierin-chief to the White House. In Europe he began, like Mr Major, to walk tall at its heart and then found events mov-

ing him briskly to

the periphery. Not a summit passes without an attack of malaise Anglaise Nothing has changed. Put this to the more thoughtful denizens of Downing Street and they fall back mournfully on constitutional reform. They are right. Scottish devolution would not have been a Tory measure in its present, radical form, though I am convinced some assembly would by now have been conceded. But then I am not sure Labour today would have conceded what was granted so promptly after the last general election. The evidence of the London mayoralty and John Prescott's White Papers on transport and local democracy is that the decentralist enthusiasm of 1997 has all but vanished from "the relaunch". The

agent of the Secretary of State for the Environment. To most of this Britain cries

London Bill now before Parliament

depicts the new mayor as a sub-

Hurrah in a perverse way, this is what the 1997 electors appear to have wanted. That was why only 43 per cent of them voted Labour. They booed Mr Major off stage, but not his policies. Whatever the Blairites may like to claim, the 1997 election was precisely to change personali-ties not policies. Mr. Blair has recognised this. He has kept taxes down and pandered to Middle England in everything from education, transport and law and order, to hunting and duty-free shopping.

ld Labour is not the only casualty of this phenome non. So too is old Liberal and old Tory. The Third Way was supposedly between Left and Right, but has swerved out and is overtaking the Tories to the Right. Small wonder William Hague can make so little impression. But Mr Blair's neo-Thatcherism is of a peculiar sort. On the libertarian-authoritarian spectrum, he leans heavily to the latter. His is the Thatcherism of wider regulation and a highly centralised government sector. Ask any doctor, farmer, teacher or small businessman under Labour and you will get a

raspberry for a reply.
Under Mr Blair as under Mrs Thatcher, intermediate institutions are distrusted. He believes in Downing Street as the fountainhead of all patronage (even who should be Poet Laureate), but also as sole conduit of political accountability. He is not the man to accord constitutional subsidiarity to Parliament, the judiciary, the professions, the unions or local government. Blairite democracy is what de Tocqueville classified as direct democracy. It uses the media to address the nation over the head of party and Parliament, and uses polisters to hear the nation's

The political content of such government is impossible to define since it is a residual of market research. It is free-market and Thatcherite, fiscally conservative, authoritarian and centrally ordered. Its watchwords are not social justice but efficiency and value for money. It is essentially illiberal since its middle-income constituency is essentially insecure. Yet the public supporting this programme clearly outnumbers those whom it neglects.
This world according to Blair is an eeric place. How long it can last remains a mystery.

comment@the-times.co.uk

Cook's round

AS ROBIN COOK braced himself for his former wife's allegations that he was a drunk, he was buying refreshments at an off-licence. Saturday afternoon saw him pop into Victoria Wine in Westernam, three miles from his weekend pad. Chevening in Kent, and bag two boxes of booze. In his thirst, he left a portfolio in the shop. The manager chased after Cook to return it. "He was obviously going to have a

drink, ventures a punter.

Next day, Margaret Cook said
she had once found the Foreign Secretary reclining on a dinir room floor, thirst sated. His friends denied the slurs: Harriet Harman was "astonished". Confused, I rang the PO. It refused to comment, then rang back: "He was buying wine for two dinner parties." How jolly.

• INSPECTING the posterior of that magnificent creature, Pete Mandelson, has been Sir David Attenborough. Alarmed by extreme tales about the former minister, he examined Peter's behind in a box at the Albert Hall. No, he couldn't find a demonic pointed tail, he told Mandelson — who was unanused.

Not versed

THE widow of T.S. Effot (both pictured) has said no contemporary poet is talented enough to become Poet Laureate. She has urged me to



tell No 10 to veto the shortlist: "I don't see what the rush is. Look at what has gone before - the talent of Hughes and Betjeman which is not matched now. They should wait until there is someone outstanding.
Paul Muldoon could be perfect in a few years." Perfectly dull, perhaps.

• PRIM matrons in Hampshire are wilting because of plans for an annual Benny Hill festival. The comedian immortalised Eastleigh in his song Ernie the Milkman (he him inspiration for life) and local historians want to mark his birth-day. "We will have floats, with locals dressed as Benny, and a milk horse," says Gordon Cox, of a local history club. Says a local pillar: "Bikini himbos are just not us."

IEMPA (NEW)

Off spinner

THE son of Glenda Jackson, the former Oscar-wining actress, is a candidate to take Charlie Whelan's job as Gordon Brown's spinner. Dan Hodges has managed to sell Steve Norris, the energetic head of the Road Haulage Association, to a surprised public. But he might blanche at plotting a "Norris for mayor" campaign, especially if his Mum runs for Labour. Like Whelan, he is a regular at the Red Lion pub, and is popular with ministers,



many of whom he has known as friends of Glenda since childhood. "It's time to hang up my CB radio. I will be leaving the RHA soon. I am interested in working for the Chancellor." Good luck, matey

 A RAG invites readers to bid for lunches with celebs, to chew over the careers of Rory Bremner, Darcey Bussell, or Alastair Campbell. Hmm., muck-raking for lunch.

Low spirits

SINEAD O'CONNOR, the rebellious Irish rock chick who ripped up a picture of the Pope, has been told she can become a priest. The offer of ordination is from dissident Bishop Pat Buckley, excommunicated after marrying divorcees. Buck-ley says O'Connor has a "deep spiritual element. So deep, that she describes her devotion to God as something for myself.

JASPER GERARD

'Don't worry about the dreaded millennium bug. With a bit of luck, we may never even get there'

know, even as I strum these opening bars, that I shall hate myself in the morning: because that is when I shall see this stuff in print, and know that you are hating me, too. Yet, much as I hate your hating me even more than I hate hating myself, I have no professional option: it is the traditional lot of the soothsayer to get the sooth said and then wait to be not merely hated but stoned, blinded, incinerated, chucked over cliffs, and generally given the bum's rush for doing no more than his duty to say it, if the said sooth is not what his listeners want to hear.

And you will not want to hear mine. For despite the fact that I am giving you 210 days' warning of the sooth, there is nothing you can do about it, except spend those days growing ever more anxious as each one passes. And God knows you are anxious enough already: indeed, there may well be far fewer of you around than usual to read and hate me tomorrow as the result of your having once again spring up early to hurtle from shop to shop, filling your car-boots with soap, pilchards, fags, whiskey, candles, aspirins, razor blades, mint cake, long-life milk and big fat books, thanks to the scant 352 days you thought you had until the arrival of the only thing you thought you had to be

anxious over because you couldn't do anything about it. Well, the good news is that you may have 142 fewer days to drive yourself nuts at the prospect of January I, 2000, and the bite of the bug that will fill the welkin

with Ukrainian missiles, change all the traffic lights to blue, cut off your utilities, blow your pension fund on loose women, and force you into the cellar to survive as best you can on your Tesco hoardings. The bad news is that you may not have to endure those 142

days of anxiety because you may not get past August II, 1999. I know this because I have spent the weekend reading about total eclipses. With one single exception these are a bad thing. and since that single exception exists only in fiction, you can see how truly bad a thing they are. The exception is Victorian stories

involving English schoolboys in

the chums come to the boil, a total eclipse causes the Fuzzy-Wuzzies to flee in terror, so that their lunches have only to wait until the Sun reappears to burn their bonds with a magnify-ing glass and paddle home to Eton. In real life eclipses

are not as benevolent the history of the blotted Sun is an unremitting record of death, destruction and mayhem, a tale of plague and shipwreck fire and flood, rapine and mania. To pluck just one from my many sources, the Anglo-Soxon Chronicle cannot record an eclipse without observ-

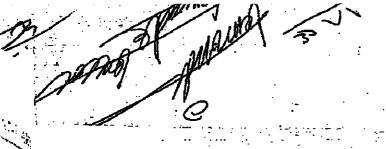
Polynesian cooking pots, where, just before dogs grew feral, crops withered, and bishops went mad. days; simpler by far than A next August II, when stiff

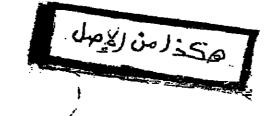
cattle and barking clerics will be the least of our concerns. I note, for example, that five million visitors will be heading for Cornwall's unparalleled ecliptic view. How will they get there when, with barely a century to. anticipate the demand, the Department of Transport has had neither the time to lift the Horiton contraflow nor the clout to persuade the rail companies to lay on the extra carriage they have been building since 1991? Will the emergency services be able to cope with the ensuing chaos, the rages which follow it, ing that cows dropped dead, the casualties which follow that?

How can they, they cannot cope with anything now, how will it be with half of them off work and trying to get to Cornwall? And never mind Cornwall, can the NHS handle the vast numbers of nationwide injuries occasioned by people walking into things in the blackness, getting crushed by falling cows, and bitten by crazed

pets or bishops? I snatch these horrors at random, for who can guess what terrors await us when the Sun goes out, leaving villains to plunder unchecked. Cabinet ministers to be distracted by all sorts of unlit mischief, or even (he's a strange cove, your Johany Sun) computers to blow a gasket? Then again, might I be tretting for nothing? Might, right this minute, the Prime Minister be working on an Eclipse Initiative?

مكدامن رالإصل.





IN EUROPE'S NAME

The European Parliament should vote out the Commissioners

Jacques Santer is right about one thing, and wrong in every other aspect of his handling, both arrogant and self-exculpatory, of the European Parliament's challenge to the European Commission. The President is right that only "zero tolerance" will put the Commission's management of public money "above reproach". Yet the only zero tolerance that he himself has shown is of the whistle-blowing by honest officials from within his own walls. His barefaced assertion this week that "we are a victim of our own transparency" would alone justify an ample majority in the European Parliament tomorrow for the vote of censure that would force all 20 Commissioners to stand down.

Mr Santer, who took office in 1995 promising that his Commission "will do less, but do it better", has had four years in which to clean the stables of nepotism. cronyism and corruption. How little has changed since the Delors heyday is best illustrated by last November's annual report of the Court of Auditors, which for the fourth year running qualified the Commission accounts because £3 billion, 5 per cent of the total budget, was fraudulently spent or could not be accounted for. Citing "systematic failures to apply requisite checks", it concluded: "The incidence of errors affecting ... transactions ... is so high that the Court has had to give an adverse opinion on legality and regularity."

If the EU were a business, in other words, its directors would be facing the courts. The report found a £2.8 billion understatement of the Commission's "off balance sheet commitments". The gaps hide a tale of faked contracts and building projects, of officials trading bribes for jobs, of ghost workers and of sinecures for friends, such as the contract Edith Cresson, the Commissioner for youth training, gave her dentist for advice on Aids. The latest audit discovered that £600 million allocated to repairing 65 unsafe nuclear power plants in Eastern Europe had been lost, wasted, embezzied or left unspent.

The Commission's response shows the culture at work. It admits that there were no records for the £600 million but insists that it was not wasted and that "only" £2 million was being investigated for fraud. Without accounts, how could it know? To the ostrich reflex, add obstruction. The Court's President, Bernhard Friedmann, complains that the Santer Commission blocked with "untruths" his auditors' efforts to investigate £420 million of what the Commission calls "book-keeping errors" - money that vanished from the

EU's 1993-95 humanitarian aid budget and fraudulent aid contracts worth a -further £1.7 million. Police investigating corruption in security and tourism budgets have had to battle against non-disclosure of documents and the Commission's reluctance to lift officials' immunity. It was the Court, not the Commission, that forced the closure of the Mediterranean programme because of serious abuses, cited by Mr "Santer as proof of his zeal. Mr Santer says that Ucial, his internal anti-fraud unit, tackled 5,000 fraud cases last year. Even if that were credible - it has only 30 staff barely 50 officials have been disciplined and only eight dismissed.

"If fraud in the European Community goes on as it has," Herr Friedmann believes, "it could bring down the whole of the EU." Mr Santer has this week had the gall to berate Goran Persson, the Swedish Prime Minister, for saving much the same. But in the looking glass world of EU politics, the likelihood is that it will not

even bring down this Commission. Last November Mr Santer dared the European Parliament to back him or sack him, knowing that its only power is the blunderbuss of a censure vote against all 20 commissioners, just and unjust alike. The dominant Socialist group has abetted his gamble; it has been exhorted behind the scenes by Germany and Britain to avoid an hiatus until a new Commission was appointed. This argument is spurious; the best Commissioners could be part of a new team determined to sweep Brussels clean. It is better that there should be a short crisis than a Commission shorn of credibility hanging on for a final year.

To lure MEPs into making fools of themselves by backing down, Mr Santer has thrown them a few German-made bones of accountability. But he has stood by Mme Cresson, whose Leonardo programme is riddled, internal auditors report, with "the misappropriation of funds", and by Manuel Marin, head of humanitarian aid when vast sums went missing and, now, of the disgraced Med programme. Even if a strong majority passes resolutions denouncing them tomorrow, neither is expected to go gracefully.

That leaves the blunderbuss. The EU Parliament is a glass house from which to throw stones: But, while the expenses MEPs claim are scandalous, the censure vote is their chance to show that they are not craven as well as venal. With an eye on this year's EU elections, MEPs should block their ears and vote for censure in Europe's name.

YEMEN AND FINSBURY PARK

Unanswered questions from killings and kidnap

The arrest of five British Muslims in Yemen is embarrassing because it suggests that the kidnappers who seized their Western hostages were inspired by Islamic radicals in this country. It is disturbing because the Yemeni authorities have neither charged nor freed the men, amidevidence of mistreatment in prison. What is also plain is that Britain is still seen abroad as a haven for Islamic extremists.

The link between the kidnappings and the arrests centres on the Finsbury Park mosque in North London, where the imam, who makes no secret of his wish to overthrow the Sanaa Government, was in contact with the kidnappers after the Birmingham Muslims, including his own. stepson, set out for Yemen. Under Sheikh Abu Hamza, the mosque has become a notorious centre of extremism. Pamphlets circulated here a few years ago calling for the killing of foreigners in Algeria. Omar-Bakri Mohammed, who tried to organise a rally of Muslim anti-Western activists in 1996, is associated with the mosque. Many local Muslims are so incensed by the extremism preached there that they have publicly dissociated themselves from it.

- 1

Whether or not the mosque has been running training camps, it is disturbing that London should have become so significant a centre for those calling for Islamic revolution. Britain has come under attack from its friends in the Middle East and Europe for its long tolerance of activities that would be clearly criminal if directed against this country: these include the plotting, material support and advocacy of terrorism. Under legislation tacked on to the emergency anti-terrorism Bill after Omagh, the first two are indeed now illegal. The Government has meanwhile tried to reassure France, Germany and others that it will not allow London to become the centre of global Islamist plots.

Yet if the Yemeni charges are upheld, Middle Eastern regimes locked in struggle with Islamist groups will use London as a scapegoat, insisting that all local terrorism is masterminded from abroad. Some, like the radicals in Britain, have an interest in exaggerating the influence of splinter groups. This is unjust to the vast majority of British Muslims, who are appalled by the glorification of political violence that does such harm to the perception of Islam. As Britain's Muslims approach Eid al-Fitr, the joyful feast marking the end of Ramadan, they do not want to be associated with kidnappings and subversion preached by a few fanatics trying to build up a following. Islam is a noble religion; the law must be invoked against those whose violent creeds debase it.

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

The DSS should look with sympathy at deaf ex-servicemen

All too often Conservative ministers in the last Parliament appeared to make decisions more on the literal application of rules than the spirit behind them. One example, shortly to be re-examined by this: Government, concerned the conditions under which former servicemen may claim additional benefit payments for loss of hearing linked to their time in uniform.

Until 1996 this extra income could be awarded in one of two circumstances. A claimant would be immediately compensated if, at the moment of leaving military life, he or she had suffered at least a 20 per cent loss of hearing as a result of excessive noise encountered during service. Others who had suffered lesser but notable hearing loss would be entitled to a rising increment in benefit over time as they too approached this 20 per cent figure. The logic behind this second section was that either there would be an after-effect of hearing loss incurred through service or that the noise encountered during these years made

premature deafness much more probable. Two years ago, the last Government declared that new scientific evidence had undermined the basis for this latter

category. There were no secondary effects of partial deafness after the initial noise-related incidents had occurred and virtually all subsequent additional loss of hearing was a result of ageing. This change saved the social security budget £35 million; and left veterans outraged. They were supported by David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, who argued that the switch ran against "all conventional medical evidence and is a smokescreen to save money".

In 1998 Baroness Hollis of Heigham announced that the new Government now accepted the data on which its predecessor had altered past arrangements. The minister acknowledged that this was an area of controversy and offered a further review by independent experts that will be completed next month. The Royal British Legion has sought, without success, to persuade the Government to spend £20,000 on fresh research on the cumulative loss of hearing. Ministers will not find it easy to persuade the public that those who suffered during Service life are not more likely to endure deafness later. Their case will be stronger if they have ensured that every avenue of proper inquiry has been fully exhausted.

ERS TO THE EDITOR

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High standards demanded of those in public life

From the Vicar of Jesmond

Sir, in supporting Robin Cook (report, January II), Tony Blair seemed to dismiss the issues relating to the private life of his Foreign Secretary as "scandal, gossip and trivia". The Prime Minister wanted to get back to "the things that really matter".

But the break-up of marriage and the marriage-based family does "really maner". Even if you ignore the private human damage, there are public exchequer costs. According to govern-ment estimates the annual "costs to the public purse of marital breakdown" are a staggering £5 billion (Research Paper 96/42 p74), and that excludes all hidden costs. Surely it does "really matter" that £5 billion is not potentially available for the current NHS crisis, or for education.

The sexual immoralities and marriage failures of public figures who should set public standards are a proper public concern. They cannot be dismissed as "trivia". They call for repentance. Lord Nolan, the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, when interviewed soon

after Tony Blair took office. said: Of all the behaviour which in my personal experience has caused the greatest misery to other human beings. I would put adult-ery pretty high on the list. I don't actually think you can expect a man with the strains of public life to perform adequately unless he has got a good home life to go back to.

Yours faithfully, DAVID HOLLOWAY, 7 Otterburn Terrace, Jesmond. Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AP. January 11.

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, In her comment on the Margaret Cook book extracts ("A divorce of convenience", January 12), Libby Purves writes: "The only test of any action is whether it does good, and who can possibly benefit from this post-marital character assassination? Well, I believe we all can; if only

Blair and the Lib Dems

because it serves as a reminder that, ostensibly, politicians are representatives of our society, having all the values and faults that are contained

The shell of superiority with which many of them clothe themselves is a part of the act that is meant to protect them from being seen as ordinary mortals and to delude themselves into believing that any special gifts that they might have outweigh other considerations.

in the end, all politicians' beliefs are self-serving. The accoutrements of their position offer them some respite from what the rest of us must suffer as a result of their indulgences.

Yours faithfully. ALAN CHALLONER. Bodelwyddan. Denbighshire LLIS 5UR. January 12.

From Mr Michael Stewardson

Sir, So Labour and the Prime Minister want an end to "gossip column" politics (don't we all). Funny: seemed to suit them well enough in opposition.

Yours sincerely, MICHAEL STEWARDSON, 6 Old Main Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4RY. January II.

From Mrs Susannah Chapman

Sir. How sad to have a Foreign Secretary who leaves his admirable wife for his secretary. I am amazed how much newsprint has been taken up by the examination of the issues surrounding what used to be known as his "private life", just at a time when he and the Prime Minister have dragged us all into some very serious moves in the Middle East. I am very much more concerned by the increasing lack of diplomatic judgment he has shown than any domestic failings. Why should the UK abandon the UN and all its careful approach in this thoughtless way? The raids on Iraq have caused huge damage to the development of international diplo-

macy in the region.

Why should we take a solitary policeman's role in the Middle East? We are no longer an empire and need a united approach with the rest of

Europe.

Why should we play lapdog to Clinton whose judgment and timing must have some relation to his own domestic interests? When a Muslim radical declares on

television that our Government is guilty of international terrorism. I find myself in the astonishing and very sad position of agreeing with him.

Yours sincerely. S. CHAPMAN, Dove House, Sutton, Suffolk IP9 2SD. January 12.

From Mrs Patricia Perry

Sir, It has never been enough to be clever: those who demonstrate a lack of balanced judgment in their private lives invariably run the risk of showing the same unfortunate quality in their business and public activities. How does the reputation of Great Britain stand now throughout the

Yours truly, PATRICIA PERRY, Long Meadow, Church Street, Charlbury, Oxfordshire OX7 3PP. January II.

From Mr Simon Levene

Sir. It would have been nice if the Foreign Secretary had had an ethical domestic policy as well. Yours faithfully,

SIMON LEVENE. 20 Berwyn Road, Richmond upon Thames TWI0 5BS.

Organ donors' 'presumed consent'

From Earl Russell

Sir, Peter Riddell ("Blairism at a turning point"; January 11) says that any movement of opinion "has been from Labour to the Liberal Democrats, rather than to the Tories. This suggests a mini-protest, rather than any fundamental shift in opinion". This prompts the reply: "Opinion on what question?"

Tony Blair's support has been so high because he has enjoyed the support both of those who voted for him because he was a change and those who voted for him because he was not. The fact that he has lost support to the Liberal Democrats suggests it was those who believed he was a change who are now disillusioned.

If Blair takes Peter Riddell's advice, the number of those disillusioned will grow, and so will the number of Liberal Democrat supporters. Yours sincerely.

RUSSELL House of Lords. January IL

Nursing shortage

From Mrs Frances Stott, SRN

Sir. You are absolutely right to say that in order to tackle the current nursing crisis ministers need to take a fresh look at nurses' training [leading article, January 11; letters, January 12]. While student nurses do spend time on the wards, much of their training now takes place in the classroom. No one would dispute the value of this, but for a practical job like nursing, classroom training should come second to practical experience.

By bringing student nurses back to the wards we would take pressure off trained staff; a competent student nurse is quite capable of taking a considerable amount of responsibility. Students would get most of their

training where they need it — doing the actual job. And the huge amount of money currently spent on class-room training (do student nurses really need to be taught such subjects as gender studies and sociology?) could be channelled towards a more realistic salary on completion of training.

Yours faithfully. FRANCES STOTT, Bleak House, Coppenhall, Stafford STIS 9BW. January II.

Future for the flag

From Mr Stephen Flook

Sir. If at some time in the future Scot-land were to gain its independence, what would become of the dear old Union Jack?

The thought of our flag being deprived of its Scottish element is depressing. However, could its retention in its present form be justified? Yours faithfully,

S. A. FLOOK, Court Lane Vineyard. Ropley, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 ODE. January 12

Business letters, page 27

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

From Professor Roger Williams and two initiatives are effective in other Mr Robert A. Sells, FRCS

Sir, The agreement of the British Medical Association ethics committee the BMA in its proposal. that the profession should consider dropping their opposition to the re-Yours etc. moval of organs for transplantation without the express permission of the deceased (but in the absence of recorded objection — so called "presumed consent") represents a major shift in medical opinion (report, December 28). It has been supported by a major

report in The Lancet (May 30, 1998). Much of the resistance of doctors in the past to such a change in the law related to a worry that it might provoke an acrimonious debate, damaging public confidence in transplantation as a whole. We feel, like the BMA, that this is no longer likely to be the case, provided that the change is preceded by informed public debate.

Other measures for encouraging consent during life through the National Donor Register have had a limited impact. It would, in our view, be more informative and useful if the register was modified to include obiections to donation as well as consent. In Belgium less than 2 per cent of the population have recorded an objection to the use of their organs since 1986, when "presumed consent" legislation was introduced into that country. Since then organ donation has substantially increased.

An additional statutory responsibility on hospitals — namely the early detection of suitable donors - would also increase the number of organs. This has been achieved in Spain by increasing the number of transplant co-ordinators and extending their role. The number of Spanish organs donated per million population is nearly double that in this country.

There is unequivocal, published evidence in the medical press that these

Beachy Head cliff fall From the Chief Scientist

at English Nature Sir. I was puzzled by the comment in

your interesting report on the cliff fall at Beachy Head (January 12) that this was proof that coastal landmarks are under threat.

Erosion created landmarks such as Beachy Head, and the cliffs are kept fresh and white by cliff falls. Without erosion the vertical white cliffs would stabilise and become covered by vegetation, turning green and losing much of their special landscape value. This has happened where chalk cliffs have been protected from the sea.

There is no doubt that our coastline

is changing and, as the Environment Agency says, this process is probably speeding up. This presents us all with a real challenge, but in seeking to meet it we should not forget that the coastline we love has been shaped by natural forces, including erosion. The lesson I take from Beachy

Head is that if we want a living coast rather than a sterile, ugly, expensive and ultimately unsustainable concrete mess we will have to learn to live with change rather than always seeking to prevent it.

Yours faithfully. KETTH DUFF, Chief Scientist, English Nature, Northminster House Peterborough PEI IUA. January 12.

European countries in closing the gap between transplant organ supply and demand. We therefore strongly back

> ROGER WILLIAMS (Director, Institute of Hepatology, University College London). ROBERT A. SELLS (Consultant transplant surgeon. Royal Liverpool University Hospitals). Institute of Hepatology, University College London, Harold Samuel House, 69-75 Chenies Mews, WCIE 6HX.

From Mr T. T. King, FRCS

January 5.

Sir, In wishing to shift opinion in favour of the recipient's rights to an organ and away from the donor's to agree, the BMA's ethics committee is proposing what I imagine is a new ethical principle: if one person has need of something belonging to another who apparently no longer needs it, it may be taken without

It has always seemed to me that there have been two problems for transplant surgeons in their search for donors. One is that as suitable cases become available mostly by accident the supply is likely to be chronically inadequate. The second is that there is probably latent among those caring for suitable donors in their terminal state a distaste for the

The BMA proposal may do something to sidestep the second but is unlikely to solve the first.

Yours sincerely. T. T. KING, Ridgemount, Hutton Mount,

Brentwood, Essex CM13 2LX. January L

Time warp?

From Mr David T. Staples ... Sir, Mr Edward Russell (letter, Dec-

ember 30) queries the correct namine of years in the next century. Two thousand and odd or twenty and odd. in 1968 Arthur C. Clarke and Stanley Kubrick made the definitive sci-

ence fiction film 2001 (pronounced two thousand and one). They seem to have set a precedent.

Yours sincerely, DAVID T. STAPLES, Il St Luke's Church, 42 Mayfield Road, N8 9LP. dstaples@tpc-lon.com January 2.

Light on the subject

From Mr Jim Pearman Sir, Philip Howard (January 8) asks

how people did their intricate work with so little light in days gone by. I had an elderly relative who made lace using a small oil lamp with the light focused through a spherical bottle. This produced a spot of light about one inch in diameter, just enough to enable her to work.

Yours faithfully, JIM PEARMAN, Brouwerijstraat 29, 1840 Steenhuffel, Belgium. jim_pearman@compaq.com

Did Paris have Roman origins?

From Professor J. G. Evans

Sir, Parisians should not be cast down by the findings of an archaeologist at the Ancient Paris Commission which suggest a Roman, rather than Gallic origin for their city treport, January 8). The paucity of remains beneath the Roman city Luteria and, in particular. the absence of streets, houses and the earthworks of an oppidum are no hindrance to the area having been an important focus of Celtic life.

Oppida often enclosed an area of several tens of hectares, but they are an enigmatic type of site and served a multiplicity of purposes, varying from cattle enclosures, sites of prestige or ritual, to meeting places.

Importantly, they were not always formal settlements or proto-towns: even Caesar saw some hillforts with no urban characters as oppida. Indeed, there may have been oppida without earthworks at all, with just the place being important - a cleared area of woodland set aside for annual meetings and ceremonies and later put aside for grazing cattle. In Britain, York, Roman Eboracum, founded in an area of intensive Iron Age pastoralism, is on just such a site.

The methods of environmental archaeology like pollen analysis and soil science should be used to examine the surfaces beneath Roman Lutetia for traces of woodland clearance, pasturing, and other signs of intensive

The natural features of the site, too, may be weighed in favour of a pre-Roman origin, with a major river. several side streams, hill pasture and lowland meadows, all typical of many

Yours sincerely, JOHN EVANS, Department of Archaeology, University of Cardiff, PO Box 909, Cardiff CFI 3XU.

Hendrix v Segovia

From Mr Martin Pearce

Sir, Mr Graham Wade's letter (January 7), extolling the claims of his hero, Segovia, over those of Jimi Hendrix to be included in your People of this Century, betrays reactionary hall-marks more characteristic of the last.

He says that Segovia "abominated everything represented by [Hendrix's] culture of cacophony, drugs and bizarre behaviour". Surely one man's "cacophony" is another man's sweet music. I personally am not keen on opera, dance, rap or jungle music but I would never write them off.

If drugs and bizarre behaviour disbarred anyone from claims to genius Coleridge, Byron, Mozart and Picasso amongst many others would have to be excluded.

Hendrix's brilliantly innovative use of amplifiers, feedback and white noise, as well as his incredible stage act, are still widely admired and emulated today. Just because he was prepared to experiment both with his music and ultimately his life doesn't make him any less a candidate than Segovia might have been.

Yours faithfully, M. PEARCE, The Chapel, Church Lane, Islip, Oxfordshire OX5 2TA. January 8.

From Mr P. Binley

Sir, Whilst Mr Wade put forward an otherwise convincing case for including Segovia over Jimi Hendrix, he did fail to indicate whether Segovia's abilities stretched to playing the guitar with his teeth.

Yours faithfully. P. BINLEY, 4 Palairet Close, Bradford on Avon BAI5 IUS. January 7.

True lies?

From Mr John Hicks

Sir, You report today that, in a test devised by a management expert, anyone who answers "true" to the question "I have never unknowingly told a lie - true or false?" is placed under suspicion.

That is unfortunate, because to anyone who understands the ordinary use of the English language there can be no other answer.

We all often unknowingly say things which are not true, but that is not lying. A false statement is a lie only if intentional. To lie unknowingly

is a contradiction. Yours faithfully. JOHN HICKS 17 Montagu Square, WIH IRD. mandjhicks@btinternet.com

From the Reverend Dr Peter Cameron

January 7.

Sir, The only appropriate answer to the question "Have you ever unknowingly told a lie?" is the one Mr Gromyko is reputed to have given to a journalist who asked him at a summit conference if he had had a good breakfast:

"Possibly." Yours faithfully.
PETER CAMERON, St Mary's Rectory, Birnam, Dunkeld, Perthshire PHS 0BJ.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE January 12: Mrs Christian Adams has succeeded The Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to

ST JAMES'S PALACE January 12: The Prince of Wales. Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall, Mr Robert

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 12: The Prince Edward, Patron, Ocean Youth Club, this evening attended the London International Boat Show at Earls Court.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will present the Institution of Incorporated Engineers Young Woman Engineer of the Year Award 1998 at the Royal Society of Arts. John Adam Street, London, WC2 at 11.20; and as president. Royal Yachting Association, will attend a luncheon at the London International Boat Show, Earls Court. SW5, at 12.45. Later. as president, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, she will attend the British Apparel Export Awards at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London W2.

Birthdays today

Mr Craigie Aitchison, painter, 73: Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, former Premier of Queensland, 88: Mr Richard Blackford, composer, 45; Mr Michael Bond, author and creator of Paddington Bear, 73: Dr Sydney Brenner, CH, FRS, molecubiologist, 72: Sir John Caines civil servant, 66; Mr Edward Crew, Chief Constable, West Mid lands, 53; the Earl of Essex, 79; Mr Stephen Glover, former Editor, The Independent on Sunday, 47: Mr Stephen Hendry, snooker player, 30; Professor Gordon McVie, director-general, Cancer Research Campaign, 54; Mr Ronan Rafferty, golfer, 35; Sir Colin Shepherd, former MP, 61: Mr mard Shrimsley, journalist, 68: Mr K.C. Turnin, former Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University, 84.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jan van Goyen, land-scape painter, Leiden, The Nether-lands, 1596; Charles Perrault, writer and collector of folk tales, Paris,

DEATHS: Edmund Spenser, poet, DEATHS: Edmund Spenser, poet, London, 1599; George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends; London, 1691; James Macknight, biblical crinc, Edinburgh, 1800; John Scott,— 1st Earl of Eldon, Lord Chancellor ' 1801-06 and 1807-27. London, 1838; Isbian, Bellinghausen, color, ex-Fabian Beilinghausen, polar explorer, Russia, 1852; Stephen Col-lins Foster, songwriter, New York,

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 12: The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, this evening attended a Dinner at Arley Hall. Knutsford, Cheshire and was received by Viscount Ashbrook JP (Vice Lord Lieutenant

KENSINGTON PALACE

January 12: The Princess Margaret. Countess of Snowdon. President, The Guide Association, held a Reception at Kensington Palace this afternoon following the presen-tation of Brooches to those who have become Queen's Guides.

1864; Sir John Seeley, historian, Cambridge, 1895; James Joyce, novelist, Zurich, 1941; Hubert Humphrey, American Vice-Presi dent 1965-69, Waverley, Minneso

ta. 1978. Nasa selected its first women astronauts, 1978

Dinners Millennium Bridge

Mr Nick Raynsford, MP. Minister for London, was the principal guest and speaker at a dinner held last night at the Globe Theatre to mark the start of work on the Millennium Bridge. Sir Norman Foster, OM. and Mr David Bell also spoke. Among those present

The Bishop of London and Mrs Chartres, the Bishop of Southwark and Mrs Butler, Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, and Lady Alexander, Lord and Lady Sainsbury of Turville, Mr Simon Hughes, MP, the Hon Sir Nicholas Serota, Sir Anthony and Lady Caro, Lady Foster, Mr Simon Jenkins and Miss Gayle Hunnicutt, Brigadier and Mrs Robert Acworth, Mr

Colin Amery.
Mrs David Bell, Mr and Mrs John Bond. Mr and Mrs Michael Cassidy. Mr and Mrs Roger Dancey, Mr and Mrs Stuart Lipton, Dr and Mrs Duncan Michael, the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral and Mrs Moses, Mr and Mrs Stephen O'Brien, Mr Malcolm Reading, Mr and Mrs Albert Scardino, the Provost of Southwark and Mrs Siee, Mr and Mrs Hugh Stevenson. Mr and Mrs John Tusa, the Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company and Mrs Vanderpump and representatives of other companies and bodies connected with the Millenni-

um Bridge. Mr Dudley Wood, president of the St Edmund Hall Association, was in the chair at the associate London dinner held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's, Mr J P D Dunbabin, vice-principal of St Edmund Hall, Mr Justin Gosling. Hon Fellow and Mr Niget Pegram, president of the junior common room were the principal guests.

Narrowing the gap in arts and crafts

By Dalya Alberge ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CLOTHES that no one could ever wear, because they are made of porcelain and wood. are among works of art that will be shown in an exhibition challenging perceptions about the fine and applied arts.

Janice Blackburn, the award-winning curator of the

exhibition opening at Sothe-

by's in London next month, is

determined "to show that there is a much narrower gap" than some might think. "The big difference is in terms of pride," she said, expressing despair at artists, fine art galleries and collectors who look down on the decorative arts as "craft" - "old fashioned, outdated, something that smacks of open-toed sandals and hanging baskets". Real dresses dipped and preserved in porcelain by Tiziana Bendall-Brunello, or gowns sculpted in wood by Victoria Metcalf, she said, are no less conceptual than the

work of Cornelia Parker, short-

listed last year for the Tate

Gallery's Turner Prize for



Tiziana Bendall-Brunello working on one of her dresses in her Cambridge studio

works that included displaying a man's white shirt on a coat-hanger and dangling bits of cutlery from the White Cliffs of Dover. "Craft can be challenging, as well as beautiful and functional."

She spoke of the difference of attitude among artists, dealers and collectors. "People who make things have to struggle more. In a sense they People who do fine art feel

they don't have to discuss their work with anybody ... What this means is that people are missing out on an opportunity to buy great work. So-called contemporary collectors think there is a stigma attached to it. Craft is a stumbling block to

collecting."
Ms Bendall-Brunello, who came to Britain from Italy ten years ago, described her porce-lain clothes as "conceptual" — "yet I use a media that is

porcelain, associated with tableware" It depends how you use it, she said. Producing porcelain clothes was a way of freezing something in time, which one could not do with a fabric. At the same time, it produced an evocative image.

The exhibition, which runs from February 4 to II, mixes recent graduates — the Scottish art schools are among the most prominent - with more established artists.

School announcements

Bedstone College

Spring Term began on Monday. The College will host the Midlands ISA Cross Country Championships on Wednesday, Rebruary 3, and the College production of Grease will take place in the Rees Hall Theatre on March 18, 19 and 20. Scholarship and Entrance Examinations take place on Monday, March L Half term commences after the Fifth and Sixth year Parents' Consultation on Saturday. February 13, to 6pm on Wednesday, Rebruary 17. Term ends on Saturday, March 27.

Eton College Eton College opens today for the Lent Half. P.N. Morley Fletcher KS continues as Captain of the School and C.P.W. Fielding OS as Captain of the Oppidans
The examination for Junior Schol-

arships will be held on January 30 and the examination and interviews for Sixth Form Scholarships on Rebruary 12 and 13. The siness Conference starts on February 22, and Long Leave will be from February 25 to March 1. There will be services of Confirmation in College Chapel, conducted by the Visitor, the Bishop of Lincoln, on March 13 and 14. School closes on March 24.

Hurstpierpoint College Lent Term started on Sunday, January 10. 150th Anniversary celebrations begin this term with an Inaugural Service conducted by the Visitor, the Bishop of Chiches-

ter, on Sunday, January 17. The Shakespeare Society present Cori-olanus between March 10 and 13. Woodard Lectures take place on January 14, February 9 and March 16. Later in the year, all former pupils are invited to attend the Old nian Reunions which for pre 1960 members will be on Saturday May I, for 1961-1980 on Saturday. May 22 and for 1981-1998 on Saturday, June 12.

For further information of these and all other Sesquicentennial events, including dinners and Gala Ball, ring Mr Nicholas Searls on 01273 835331.

Merchant Taylors' School

Term begins today and ends on Friday, March 26. The Duologues Competitions take place in the Studio Theatre on Wednesday, February 10. The School Concert is at Merchant Taylors' Hall at 6.45pm on Monday, March 8, and the Orchestral and Choral Concert takes place in the Great Hall on Monday, March 22. The Visit by

Frederick Durrenmant will be performed from March 18-20 in the Studio Theatre. Jamie Lane is Captain of Hockey, and the XI tours Belgium at half-term. The School hosts the regional finals of the European Youth Parliament npetition on February 24. PHAB week begins on March 27.

Royal Russell School, Croydon

A reunion for Old Russsellians who were at Ballards or Russell Hill Schools will be held on Saturday, May 8, 1999. For details please telephone 0181 657 4433. St Margaret's School, Bushey

The Spring Term at St Margaret's School, Bushey, begins today and ends on March 26. Charlotte Burn continues as Head Girl and Aziza Kassam as the Deputy Head Girl. This year marks the 250th Anniversary of the foundation of the school. The Right Rev D. Farmbrough is the speaker at a service to launch the Thanksgiving Celebrations on the first day of term. There will be a 1749 Day for pupils on February 12 and a Dinner for former Head Girls of the School on March 20. Her Majesty's Band of

the Royal Marines. Portsmouth will give a concert in the school grounds on May 15 and Speech Day will be on July 9. The main Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Paul's Cathedral at 2.30pm on St Margaret's Day, Tuesday, November 16.

Wymondham College, Norfolk

Term started on January 11 at the College and building work has started on the new Elm teaching block for English, History and Religious Studies. This term's drama production will be part of the National Theatre Schools Competition which the College has been invited to enter. The History department will be taking students to visit Normandy and the D-Day anding Beaches at half term. The GCSE Geography trip is to take place at the end of term and the students will visit Spain. The Service of Confirmation will take place in the College Chapel with Right Rev Malcolm Menin officialing on Sunday, March 21. The Principal will take up his by Fellowship at Churchill College, Cambridge. Open Days for this term will be held on the Saturday mornings of February 6, March

20, May 8 and June 12.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.R.M. Banham and Miss B.S.G. Meyer

The engagement is announced Mark Richard Middle cost, son of Sir John and Lady Banham, of St Buryan, Coruwall and Birgina Sarah Grace, daugh ter of Mr and Mrs Carl H.A. Meyer, of Harborne, Birming-

Mr M.J. Burns

and Miss F.D. Smedley The engagement is announced, from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, be-tween Michael, son of the late Mr Bruce Burns and of Mirs Pay Burns, of Cullinan, South Africa. and Fions, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Smedley, of Lilley. Hertiordshire.

Mr D.G.L. Cleary and Miss E.K. Gilbey

The engagement is announced ergeen Damian Geoffrey Lissant. son of Mr Anthony Cleary, of Ashow, Warwickshire, and of Mrs Agnow, Westwissen, of Graff-bam, West Susser, and Runna Kaye, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Gilbey, of Guestling, East

Mr P.R. Dickinson and Miss J.B.M. Turnbull

The engagement is announce between Piers, elder son of Mr William Dickinson, of Corbridge, Northimberland, and Mrs Roger Harrison-Topham, of Coverdale, North Yorkshire, and Joanna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Turnbull, of Surbiton, Surrey. Captain G.R. Francke, PWRR, and Miss M.J. Bainbridge

The engagement is announced between Giles, son of Mr and Mrs John Francke, of Chelwood Gate, Sussex, and Magdalena, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bryan Bambridge. of Easthourne, Sussex.

MrCR Hamilton and Miss F.D. Edwards

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Major and Mrs Charles Hamilton, of Hamwood, Co Meath, Eire, and Prancesca, daughter of Mrs Edwards and the late Major Richard Ed-wards, of Hastemere, Surrey. Mr S.R. Hawker

and Miss J.B. Imbert

The engagement is announced between Stuart, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. Hawker, of Upminster. Essex and Joanne only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Imbert, of Hutton, Essex. Mr Q.S. Holland

and Miss L.M. Police.

The engagement is announced etween Quinton, son of Mr Brian Holland and Mrs Nicki Holland and Louise, youngest daughter of Viscountess Sidmouth and the late Mr Francis Pollen. Dr C.R. Jas

and Miss V.L. Liardet

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Dr and Mrs R.J. Jasparro, of Provi-dence, Rhode Island, USA, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr A.J. Liardet, of Eastcott, Wiltshire, and Mrs S.M. Reinschreiber, of Aurora Obio USA.

Mr W.D. Kelly and Miss S.M.R. Cairns

The engagement is announced between William David, son of Mr and Mrs William Kelly, of Dublin, and Sarah Marjory Russell, only daughter of Mr and Mrs William Cairns, of Edinburgh.

Mr N.A.P. Kent and Miss J.L. Barley

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest sured Mr and Mrs Kenneth J. Kent, of Moor Park, Farnham, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald G. Bailey, of Guildford,

Mr J.D. Reed and Miss J.E.L.D. Conran-Smith The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of

Mr and Mrs Robert Reed, of Haywards Heath, and Jillie, elder daughter of Mr. David Conran-Smith and the late Mrs Rosie Conran-Smith, of Clocksbriggs.

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Mr R.W. Reed and Miss K. Mutic

The engagement is announ between Rupert, younger son of the late Mr Arthur Reed and of Mrs Reed, of London, SWI, and Katarina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roduljub Mutic, of Valjevo, Yugo-

Mr R.C.W. Rucker and Miss S.M. Peel

The engagement is annour between Rupert, son of Brigadier and Mrs James Rucker, of Ashmore, Dorset, and Susie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Peci, of Hassop, Derbyshire.

Captain J.R.C. Scale and Miss L.F. Cowling

The engagement is announced between Captain Jonathan Seale, The Royal Dragoon Guards, son of the late C.O'M.H. Seale and of Mrs Seale, of Fleet, Hampsh and Lynne Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.F. Cowling, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

Mr T.J. Vanghan-Hughes and Miss C.A. Stigter

The engagement is amnounced between Timothy, only son of Mr and Mrs John Vanglian-Flughes, of London, and Corene, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Stigler, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr A.M.S. Wedderburn and Miss K.J. Watson

The engagement is arrounced between Michael, third son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Wedderhum, of Mounagahanie, Cupar, Fife, and Kathryn, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Gavin Watson, of Paisley, Renfrewshire.

University news

Peterhouse, Cambridge The Rev Jonathan Ben Quash (Peterhouse and Fitzwilliam College) has been elected Dean. ain, Catechist and Official Fellow at Peterhouse, Cambridge.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a real blessing. Psalm 127.3 (GNB2).

BIRTHS COOMES - On 11th January, to Annabelle (née Weiverson) and Edward, a son, William James. DAY - On 2nd January to Suki and Owen, a son, James Archibald John, a brother for Alastair.

brother for Alastair.

DRING - On January 9th 1999 at The Portland Hospital to Edwina (use Newsome) and Patrick, a daughter, Annabel Louisa.

FLANAGAN - On January 6th, 1990 1999, to Louise (née Dreshert and Adrian, a beautiful son, Benjamin Luke.

Luxe.

HACKNEY - On January 6th
1999 at St. Thomas'
Hospital, to Vanessa (née
Sharms) and William, a
daughter, Elizabeth
Laura. KENDALL - On Dece 29th to Stephen and Niamh (née Power), a son,

Luc Sebastian Douglas, brother to Cathryn, Hugo KOPSER - On January 8th at The Portland Hospital to Suzanne and Mark, a girl, Ashley, a sister for Victoria and Sarah

KUNZER - On January 10th 1999 to Sezah (née Ayusley-Green) and David, a son, Tristan Alexander Bartholome a brother for Imogen.

MILLER - On January 11th. MRLER - On landary 11th, to Catherine (née Manden-Smedley) and Christopher, a daughter, Anna Panelope, a sister for George.

PETTS - On December 18th at Southead Hospital, to Diana (née Laird) and David, a son, Robert William John, a wonderful brother for Victoria. PITMAN - On January 6th to Elizabeth (nee Noel) and

Henry, a son, Luke, PRITCHARD-BARRETT - On January 6th 1999 to Jo and Balloo, a son, Luke David, prother to Sophie and

F PRYCE - On 5th Jenuary 1999 to Katie (née Childs) and Simon. a son, Archie James Tatham. ROHAN - Robert Zimmerman Bear, a brother to Emily and eriotte and a son to

> SAMUELS - On January 5th in Oxford to Alison (née Evans) and Robert, a daughter, Anna Maria. SCHAFER - On January 11th in Germany to Rachel (née frost) and Guido, 2 son, Jakob Louis, 2 brother for

Margot and Ian. Born

WALKER – On Wednesday 6th January 1999 to Joanns (née Treadgold) and Graeme, a son, Edward.

WHITE - On 6th January Screna (née Wells) and Simon, a son, Freddie Harold Everard.

DEATHS

BIRTHS

ADAMS - John Trevor Kerby on January 11th after many years of illness. Dearly loved husband of Jeanuse, father of Jeremy, father-in-law of Debbie and grandfather of Harriet and Iom. Private cremation, Memorial service to be held at Portsmouth Meeting House, Northwood Road, on Fridey January 15th at 2.30 pm.

BARRINGTON - Peter Malet. MC and Bar, TD, suddenly on January 10th 1999 aged 78. Husband of Joan. Jather of Charles, David (decessed) and Michael.

DEATHS

HOMAS - On December 21st, 1998 at The Portland Hospital to Fiona (née Smlth) and Simon, a ughter, Ella Fra ister for Fredd

father of Charles, David (decessed) and Michael. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Chiddingfold on Friday 15th January at 10.30 am. Family flowers only. Donathons if desired to Royal Artillery Charltable Fund, R.A. Berrscks, Woolwich, London SE18 4BH.

BERLEY - Karen, Lady Beeley at home on Sunday evening 10th January 1999. Simply adored. Private Jamily funeral. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon 0171 834 4624

BEIFORD - On Saturday 9th Innuary, Dr. Helen Cathlean Belford, aged 50 years, died peacefully at the Marie Curie Hospice, Hunters Hill, Clasgow, after a short illness radiantly borne in Christ's love and power.

Thanksgiving Services are to be held in the Union Church, Istanbul, Turkey on Wednesday 13th Ianuary at 5.10pm and a! St. George's - Tron, Clasgow, on Saturday 18th January at 12.15pm, preceded by a private cremation service. Family flowers only. Donations to be divided between Beatson Oncology Unit, Western Infirmary, Clasgow and the Marie BELFORD - On Saturday 9th

Glasgow and the Marie Curie Cancer Care Foundation

MAIS - At Strachan House
Nursing Rome,
Edinburgh, on 9th January
1999, Sir Alastalr
Campbell Blair KCVO,
WS, aged 90. Devoted
husband of the late
Catriona Orr and much
respected father and
grandfather. Service at
Canongate Kirk,
Edinburgh, on Monday
18th January at 12 noon, to
which all friends are
invited. Private cremation.
Family Rowers only.
BREEZE - Margaret Mary
Graham (Peggy), aged 89
years. Peacefully at
Bocham. A much koved
mother and grandmother.
Funeral Service at Holy
Trinity Bocham on
Monday 18th January at
4.15pm, followed by family
cremation. All welcome for
tas at the Millistream
Hotel, Bocham, from
4.45pm. Flowers or
donations to R.S.P.B. c/o
FA Holland and Son, 3
Jubilee Road, Chichester,
Tel-01243 78296S.
BURR - January suddenly
on 10th January suddenly BLAIR - At Strachan House

SURR - Iames Godfrey (Jim) on 10th January suddenly at home aged 88, Loving husband of the late Alec Christina and much loved father and grandfathe Funeral Eucharist at

Funeral Encharjet at Clawer St Staphen's Church, Windsor on Saturday 16th January at 11.00 am. No flowers please, but domations to The Gurkha Welfare Trust c/o E Sargeant and Son, 6: St Leonards Road, Windsor SL4 3BX. CLAXTON - On 9th Jam CLAXION - On 9th January 1998 at Finborough Court, Stowmarket, Agnes Jane aged 94, widow of Bishop Charles Claxton, much loved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral on Wednesday, 20th January at 12 noor at 5t Morris.

well anone at St Mary's, Brant Eleigh near Lavenham. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Pulcher Funeral Services Tel: Funeral Services Tel: 01294 754049.
CURTES - On January 9th, peacefully at Radbroke Home. Leatherhead, John Russell, beloved husband of Joy and father of David, Noei and Paul Funeral at United Reformed Church, Speer Road, Thames Ditton. 2.00mm Thursday.

Dittou, 2.00pm Thursday 21st January, followed by cremation at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Family flowers only, but donations may be sent to the Alzheimers Disease Society.
DEAR - Winifred May
pescrfully at a murging
home in Cooden 10th
January 1999. Wife of the
late Thomas Henry. A
private cremation service
of thankegiving. Family
flowers only, donations to
Bexhill Hospital c/o
Munmery, Bexhill,
Sussex.

1.07.-.22.222.5.

DART - Geoffrey James peaceably passed away, after short illness, on after short illness, on Friday 9th January 1999 aged 74. Husband of the late Margaret, (note Erskine). Loving father of Graeme, Kavin, Gillian, Jonathan, Christopher an grandfather of Benjamin and Hannah. Puneral Service to be held at Cambridge Cremstorium on Monday 18th January 1999 at 3,00pm. Family flowers only please. Donattons to Dr Bernardos.

DORMAN - Stephen Lloyd, suddenly on January 4th, aged 49. Dearly loved son of Gwen and of the late Dr William Dornan and brother of John. Funeral Service at St. Lanuary at 12 acon. Family Howers only. Donations, if deained to the Friends of St. Laurence or Macmillan Cancer Relief. c/o A. Hoskins and Son Funeral Directors, Ludlow 101584 872048) or at the Church.

DOWNES - On 12th January 1995, peacefully in the Pilgrims' Hospice at Camterbury, John Edmura Downes, a very loving and much loved brother, unch and great-uncle. Service at St. Nicholas Church, Asl., at 3.30pm on Monday 18th January. No flowers, please, but if desired gifts instead to the Pilgrims' Hospice.

DUFFIELD - Leelle, formerly Senior Partner of Pinsent & Co, died on 10th January aged 77. Loved as a Fath Grandfather, Husband Grandiather, Husband and Friend. Funeral at Robin Hood Crematorium on Tuesday 19th January at 11.00am. No mourning, family (lowers only, donations if desired to Alzheimer's Disease

DUKE - Brian Peter, on Junuary let macropectedly at home, aged 65 years. Funeral at Aldershot Crematorium, Wednesday January 20th, 2.00pm. No flowers. Inquiriss to Funeral Directors - A & W Goddard Ltd, Keaz Road, Fleet, Hanta, GU13 9AH, Tei-01252 616431. Tel:01252 518431.
GBB - Irene on Jamary 9th peacefully after a long illness courageously borne. Mother of the late Micholes Fripp and grandmother of Gemma Fripp. Much loved sister, aumi, granule and friend. Funeral 11.46am Wethnesday 20th Jamuary at Saliebury Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations to Imperial Cancer Research. Enquiries Diamond & Sons, Lymington, SO41 9DN Tel: 01590 672060.

FORDHAM - Ebba died peacefully at the Pantiles Nursing Home, Tumbridge Wells on Ianuary 7th, 1999 in her 90th year. Much loved mother of Susan, Michaela and John, stepmother of Jeramy and Chloe, grandmother to their children and greatgrandmother to their children children. Private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at 3.00 pm on Thursday January 21st at St James Church, Ferndale Road, Tumbridge Wells. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Fire Brigades' Bensvolant Fund or Carlam, c/o E. R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tumbridge Wells. TNI 15D. Tel: 01892 522462.

HEATH - David passed away on January 8th 1999 aged 62 years, beloved husband of Susan and loving father to Jame, Andrew, Simon, Richard and Pani. Private family companies Richard and Paul. Private family cremation. memorial service to take place at 5t Wilfrids. Church, Scraveton, Nottinghamskire on Saturday 23rd January at 11.30 am. Donations in issue for Help The Aged may be sent c/o A Oliver & Sons FD. 45 Earthorpe Street, Ruddington, Nottingham NG11 6LB.

HOLDEN - Frederick John on 8th January 1999 peacefully after a short illness in the Nuffleld Hospital, Bournemouth aged 69. Much loved husband of Shelagh and wonderful father to Simon. Service of Thanksgiving will take place on Tuenday 19th January, 2.00pm at The Church of The Transfiguration, Canford Chills, Dowet, No flowers pleese. Donations if desired for the Canner Research Campaign may HOLDEN - Frederick John on

Research Campaign may be sent to Tapper Funeral Service, 32/34 Parkstone Road, Poole, HOLLESNEAD - Marjorie ingram. Died pascafully in the Sue Rydar Home, Cheltenham, on 9th January, aged 38 years. Beloved wife of the late Cyril and much loved by all her family, Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Chariton Kinga, Cheltenham, on Wednesday 20th January at 12.15pm, followed by private careation. No mourning places. Family flowers only, donations for the Leckhampton Court Stee Ryder Home, may be sent to W.S. Trenhalie Funeral Directors, 174 Bath Road, Cheltenham, GL53 7NF. ICLLEGHEAD - Marjorie

HOLLAND - Mary Patricia (Pat) Ex. Rhodesia Coppe Belt Kitwe and Salisbury and latterly Gravesend. Pessed away after much suffering bravely endured on Friday 8th January at Joyce Green Hospital. Requiem Mass at St Johns R.C. Church Gravesend at 9.30 am on Monday 18th January. Flowers and any enquiries from old past friends to Levis Solomon, 19 Darnley Road, Gravesend Tel 01474 352251.

HOWARD - Prances
Davidona 'Dodie' (née
de Winton) of Sisiey and
formerly of Siad.
Gionosstershire, died
pascefully on 5th January
1999, aged 95 years.
Wonderful mother to
Susan, Angela, Philip and
Dians. Also much loved
grandmother to 11 grandmother to 11
grandmother to 11
grandchildren and 5 greatgrandchildren so far!
Private Funeral. There will
be a Thanksgiving Service
for Dodie and her late
husband. Eric on Saturday
27th Meach 1996 at All husband, Eric on Seturday 27th March 1999 at All Saints Church, Blaley, hear Stroud, Gloucesterahire at 2,30pm. All who knew them will be most welcome. No flowers please. Donations if desired to The Saivation Army, Samaritans or Lifeboots.

ICETTLER: - Sally. Died peacefully in Portsmouth on the 4th January 1999. Widow of the late Johnny Kettler. Sadly missed by her children Christopher, Jacquelline, Jane and Andrew and her eight grandchildren; Johnathar Sarzh, Januer, Januer. Andrew and ner eight grandchildren; Johnathan, Sarah, Jerendy, James, Carle, Richard, Claire and Lynne as well as many friends in Portsmouth. Service at Porchester Cremstorium, Hampahire on Wednesday 3rd February at 11.50cm, Flowers may be sent to Berrells Fumeral Directors Ltd. Lewyswood? 245

LORD - Estherine Mary on January 8th at Globe House Nursing Home aged 91. Fendly remembered by het extended family and friends. Formerly of North Court. Hestocks.

Cremation Service to be held at Surrey & Sause or Crematorism, Crawley on Thursday Zist January at 2.15pm. Puneral Directors B C Baker & Son, 15-17 High Street, Catartam CRS 5152 Tel: 01863 High Street, Carertu CR3 SUE Tel: 01883

NWARING - On 9th January 1999, peacefully at home after a long illness, Auriol Vids, widow of Mark Eynaston Mainwaring, much leved mother of Louise and Robert and devoted grandmother and great grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral at 11.30sm on 18th January 1999 at St Michael and All Angels Church.
Weishampton, Shropehire.
Family Rowers only,
donations if desired to the
NSPCC or the Alzheimers
Disease Society.

MIDDLETON - Joan (née Winterbottom) of Stamford, on 7th January. Loved by her many friends. Funeral at St. George's Church, Stamford, Monday 25th January at 1.15pm followed by cremation. No flowers at her request, but donations if desired to Hurst Ward Endowment Fund', Stamford Hospital c/o R.J. Scholes, St. George's Street, Stamford 01780 763092.

METCHESOM - At Carradale
House, on the 11th January
1939, Naomi Mitchison
aged 101 years, Service at
Clydebank Crematorium
on Seturday 16th January
1999 at 9.00am, Scattering
of sates at Carradale on
Sunday 17th January at
2.00pm, all friends
welcome at either or both,
Jamily flowers only.
Donations if desired to
Ordam, A memorial
meeting in London will be
announced later.

MORSE - Nancy on January 9th 1999 aged 85 years. Peacefully, not in pain. Wife of the late David Wife of the late Laws Morse. Mother of Jonathan, Annabel and Oliver. Grandmother of Roses and Emmy. Funeral at Doddington nesr Wooler, Northumberland on Saturday January 16th at 12 noon, No flowers

PARITER - On January 8th
Anne Powies of Hereford,
the widow of R A Painter.
Funeral service st.
Hereford Cremstorium on
Friday 15th January at
3.15pm. Flowers if desired
to Bayley Brothers
(Hereford) Ltd. Cotterell
Street. Hereford

RADNOTI - Zoltan Gyozo.
Died suddenly in London,
on Friday, January 8th
1999, Dearly loved
husband of Mary Dwyer
Radnoti. A Hungarian
freedom fighter who loved
his boneland and who his homeland and who took great joy in his adopted country. Funeral at 9.30 Friday, January 15th at St Mary's Chapel. Kensal Green Cemetery. No flowers please. Donations to the British Heart Foundation or The Flood Disaster Fund for TransCarpathian Hungarians (cheques made payable to the National Federation of Hungarians, 35 College Road, Wembley, Middx HANS SRJ. odw bas ba

ROGERS - Professor Don, Beloved husband of Lilian and devoted father, father in-law and grandfather. Called into the presence of his Lord on 9th January. Thanksylving Service or Thanksgiving Service at Beulah Baptist Church Clifford Road, Bezhill, on Chilore Rose, Sephili, on Wednesday 20th January at 2.30pm. In lieu of flowers, gifts for Compass Braille and Torch Trust, made payable to Bexhill Braille Bibles c'o Mummery, 31 Devoushire Rose, Bezhill TN40 1AH.

Road, Berhill TN40 1AH.
RIDWECK - On January 3rd
1999 Olivia Grace, of
Mayfield, Sesser aged 93,
widow of Joseph Spencer
Radwick of Westphinster
School - beloved mother
of Susen, Josephina,
Martin, Virginia and
Oliver, adored
grandmother of Caroline,
Adrian and Ropert and
proud great-grandmother.
Memorial Service at St.
Dunstan's Parish Church
Mayfield on Thursday
March 11th et 11.30 am.
Donations in her memory
to the National Society for Donations in her memory to the National Society for Epilepsy may be sent to R Jarvis F/D Cross in Hand, Heathfield, Sussex TN21

Hasthfield, Sussex TN21
OSR.
RUSSELL - On 6th January,
1999, Hilda, aged 97 years.
For many years Nursing
Sister at St. Bartholomews
Hospital, London,
Requirem Mass at St.
Barnahas Church,
Tunbridge Wells on
Wednastday 20th January
at 10.00 am, followed by
cremation, No flowers. Alf
enquiries to J. Kempster
and Sons (tel. 01892523131). SALT - Brian George Deniel, aged 83 years, peacefully in the Isle of Man, Beloved brother of Denis and loved anche and great turcle.

Enquiries please to Cringle & Co Ltd. Telephone (01624) 83 na (01624) 833602. CHUPBACH - Erme SCHPBACH - Errest (Schupes) on 11th Fannary 1999 suddenly in bespital after a long period of poor beath. Husband of Mavis, father of Lucy Broomfield. William, George and Tom father-in-law of James, grandfather of Rupert, Primrose and Roy, Funeral has taken piace. SULMAN - Dr. Mohsen, on 8th January 1999, husband of Reine, father of Ingi and Dina, brother of Dr. Yehin and Ehsane. Funeral service at 12.00 soon on Monday, 18th January 1999 at St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, Allen Street, Kensington 1999 at St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, Allen Street, Rensington, London WR. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to "The Extensive Care Nurses Fund Special Trustees" sent to Logi Solinan, 31 Downsview Road, Upper Norwood, London SE19 3XD. Enquirles to J. H. Kenyon.

Enquiries to J. H. Kenyon Tel: 0171 937 0757.

STODART - Mary, after a short illness at Bescon House R.R. Fleet, on January 7th. Widow of John Campbell Stodart, dear mother, grandmother, fruneral Service at the Secred Heart RC Church, Farsham, on Wednesday 20th January at 11. Sem, followed by turnial at the Royal Navel Cemetery, Haslar. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o A & W Goddard Ltd, Kant Road, Fleet, Hants, GU13 9AH. Tel-01252 618431.

TAYLOR - On Jaminary Joth peacefully in hospital, of Glasgow Cottage.
Middleham. North Tortuinte (formerly of Stanley Gardens, London), Peter Vincent, aged ?? years. Formerly Managing Director of F J Lyons PR Company, London.
Beloved son of the late Bhitop and Clara Taylor and a good friend of Mark Vanderplank. Funeral Service and interment at St Mary and St Altralda's.

Service and interment at St Many and St Alkelda's. Church, Middleham. North Yorkshire on Saturday Jenuary 16th at 1.00 pm. No flowers please donations if desired for RAF Benevolent Fund co Senderson & Co. Funeral Directors St Matthew Works. Leyburn, North Yorks DLS SEC. Friends please meet at the church.

TAYLOR - Harold E
(Roswell), peacefully at
house on famury 11th.
Loving and most dearly
belowed husband of
Margart treasured father
of Sturges, father in law
of judith and much lowed
graudhatur of Jenarhan,
Paul and Catherine,
Paul and Catherine,
Puneral at Aynine Parish
Church on Friday, 15th
Jenuary at 10.00 am.
Family Boyeers only,
please; donations if
deared for Katherine
House Hospica c/o J&M
Humphris, 32 Albert
Street, Banbury OX16
SDG.

IBRUER - Irene of Weston-Super-Mare, died on December 19th. She managed The Grand Ariantic Hotel with her husband Eddie for many years. Her family miss her. Memorial Service to be held at St. Marry Hutton on Saturday 23rd January at 2.30pm. All welcome. No flowers please but donations to Weston Hospice Care, WSM.

WIGGLESWORTH - George aged 32, suddenly on 9th January 1998 in High Wycombe. Much loved husband of Eleanor and father of Lucy, John, Jill and Ann. Funeral 3.30pm on 21st January 1990 or on 21st January 1999 at Amersham Cremetorius Family flowers only. If desired donations to the British Heart Foundation, care of Surman and Horwood Fune (01844) 351323

SERVICES SCHWEDER - John. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Schweider - U.L. ior the life of John Schneider will be held at Holy Trinity Brompton, London SW?, at 2 pm on Thursday, January 21st 1999, All welcome.

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مكذامن الإصل:

LE JAMAN

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 1999

OBITUARIES

of Kintyre aged 101. She was born in Edinburgh on November I, 1897.

aomi Mitchison, who lived almost right through the cen-tury, may justifiably be seen as one of its exemplary representatives. She was born a Victorian, and in a long and varied life she played many parts, filling each moment to the brim.

Naomi Mary Margaret Haldane came from a remarkable Scottish family. Her uncle was R. B. Haldane (Lord Haldane of Clean) the liberal and the liberal state.

of Cloan), the Liberal and then Labour. Lord Chancellor: her father was the physiologist and philosopher J. S. Haldane; her mother was the formidable hostess Kathleen Trotter; her brother (her first and greatest love) was the pioneering geneticist J. B. S. Haldane. She grew up in Oxford, where her father was a fellow of New College, and was educated at the Oxford Preparatory School later the Dragon School), at home, and then at the Society of Oxford Home Students flater St

Anne's College).
She showed promise in botany but was never able to obtain any qualifications or practise any profession, though she studied widely and was particularly impressed by the work of Jung and James Fraser. Brought up in a privileged but restricted background, she had difficulty freeing herself from descriptions. freeing herself from dependence on her parents and the conventions of her class.

But everything was changed by the First World War. In 1915 she worked as a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital in London and the John Raddiffe Infirmary in Oxford, and in 1916 she married her brother's friend Gilbert Richard (Dick) Mitchison, a lawyer five years older than

Naomi Mitchison, CBE, author, died herself who was serving in the Army in on January II at her home on the Mull France. He was severely wounded in of Kintyre aged 101. She was born in action but she nursed him back to health: he began his career, and she began a family. After the war they lived in London, where he worked as a barrister and she worked as a mother but also as a writer, and they formed the nucleus of a

largely left wing intellectual circle.

She was an active, early supporter of birth control — helping to run the North Kensington Clinic and speaking and writing on the subject — but joyfully, if painfully the had seven children over 22 painfully, she had seven children over 22 years. She suffered bitter loss; her first son died from meningitis (cruelly described in Aldous Hundry's Point Counter Point), and her last daughter died soon after birth (gently described in her memoirs). She also enjoyed sweet success: her other three sons became distinguished scientists - one introduced her to James Watson, and she helped to edit The Double Helix, which was dedicated to her - and her other two daughters both became writers. She later had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and gave her recreation in Who's Who as "keeping up with the family" (later replaced by "surviving so far").

Her marriage was happy but not entirely satisfactory, despite help from the hooks of Marie Stones, and both she and

books of Marie Stopes, and both she and her husband entered into several other relationships, which were conducted with dignity and described with humour. As the Second World War approached they moved to Carradale House in Kintyre. which became her base for the rest of her life, and where she farmed her land, entertained guests and took an active part in local and regional affairs.

She was a radical in religion and politics, and went further than her

NAOMI MITCHISON

ه کذارمن رائیمل

agnostic parents (if not as far as her brother's militant atheism), joining Rationalist Press Association, and becoming a director of the shortlived paper of scientific humanism. The Realist (1929). Her mother was a Conservative and her father a Liberal, and although she began moved through the latter to socialism (if not as far as her brother's - militant communism). She supported the League of Nations Union, and even-

tually joined the Labour Party and the Fabian Society. She was involved in the work of Tom Harrisson's Mass-Observation from its beginning in 1937. She supported the Popular Front but was never a fellow-traveller, and sometimes insisted that she was really a liberal or even an anarchist at heart. She stood unsuccessfully for the Scottish Universities seat in 1935, and served on the Argyll County Council on and off from 1945 to 1965. She proved a loyal supporter of her husband as a Labour candidate from 1931, MP from 1945, and life peer from 1964 until his death in 1970 (though she characteristically refused to be called Lady Mitchison). She also supported the Scottish National-



Peace Appeal in the 1950s, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the 1960s, and the Greenham Common women in the 1980s. She became umpopular with some local people for her opposition to the nuclear submarine base in Holy Loch, not far from her home, which brought employment to many.

lands and Islands

Later in life she became unexpectedly involved in the politics of southern Africa. In 1963 she was invited by her friend Linchwe, who had become the chief of the Bakgatla tribe in Bechuanaland (later Botswana), to become his adoptive mother. She accepted the position of Tribal Mother with enthusiasm, putting into practice what she had written about, and went on visiting the tribe into her nineties.
But Naomi Mitchison was best known

as a prolific and popular writer. During a literary career of seventy years she contributed thousands of articles and letters to scores of papers, and produced books at a rate of more than one a year. She made her name with historical novels: The Conquered (1923), about the Roman conquest of Gaul, brought her appointment as Officier de l'Académie Française, The Corn King and the Spring Queen (1931), an ambinious treatment of cultural and sexual conflict in Ancient Greece and Scythia, earned admiration from both critics and readers, and The Bull Calves (1947) drew on her Scottish

She also wrote poetry and drama, but was discouraged by the reaction of other poets and dramatists. She wrote biographies. She wrote modern fiction: We Have Been Warned (1935) was censored by her publishers and censured by the reviewers for its sexual and political frankness, but stands as what she called a "historical novel about my own times". She edited factual symposiums: An Outline for Boys and Girls and Their Parents (1932) became a secular bible for many progressive families, though What the Human Race is Up To (1962) was less successful. She wrote children's books and science fiction: Travel Light (1952) and Memoirs of a Spacewoman (1962) became classics. She wrote books about Scotland which contributed to the Scotlish literary renaissance, and books about Africa which were banned by the South African Govern-ment. She wrote practical philosophy: Socrates (1937, with R. H. S. Crossman) and The Moral Basis of Politics (1938) were both straightforward expositions of the decent life.

In later years she produced a series of books based on her diaries and letters.

starting with documentary records -Vienna Diary (1934) — but more fully developed in Mucking Around (1980) and Among You Taking Notes (1985). There were also more impressionistic works such as Small Talk (1973). Taken together all these books form a remarkable account of her era. She was an active member of PEN and president of the Saltire Society

Naomi Mitchison was above all a feminist -- though she often repudiated the term — who fought hard in private and then in public for the right of herself and other women to take a full part in all aspects of private and public life. Her literary work was saturated with feminist considerations, though she never finished "The Intelligent Women's Guide Through Feminism" which she began in the 1930s. She was recognised by the later women's movement as one of its heroines. Several of her books were reprinted by feminist publishers, and this is probably how she will be best remembered.

She should also, however, be remembered for her living presence. She was an extrovert who exposed her weaknesses as well as her strengths to an often hostile public, a rationalist who suffered from nightmares and panics, wept as much as she laughed, and started physical as well as verbal fights, a humanist who sympa-thised with religion and ritual, a radical who turned down an OBE but accepted appointment as CBE in 1985, a reformer who always stressed "what people really want" and never forgot the importance of fun. She wrote near the end of her long life, "But the bright vision fades, always, always," — though she added, "We wait for a new wave of hope."

She leaves three sons, all Fellows of the Royal Society, and two daughters.

BRIAN MOORE

Brian Moore, novelist, died in California on January !! aged 77. He was born in Belfast on August 25, 1921.

ew successful novelists are as little-known as Brian Moore. A modest, retiring man, he made his name almost by stealth. There were no massive bestsellers, no headline-grabbing advances; just a steady stream of books, one every couple of years. Heedless of fashion, he wrote taut, wellcrafted, thoughful fictions, remarkable glimpses into unremarkable lives. They won him a reputation as "a writer's writer": Graham Greene once... called him his favourite living novelist: another admirer was Kingsley Amis. But readers liked him too, for few writer's writers have been as readable

as Moore. down. "I live in a sort of writing limbo," he once said. "No one seems able to place

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subjects and genres. His career began with pseudonymous thrillers, and he later wrote the screenplay for Alfred Hitchcock's Torn Curtain. He remained a master of quiet suspense, able to render unsettling the most humdrum scene. Some of his best works, such as The Colour of Money. shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1987, and Lies of Silence, shortlisted three years later, are nail-biting thrillers, however much else they might

be besides. In life, as in his writing, he was at once approachable and elusive. Witty, charming and unassuming, his only obvious vanity a fondness for handmade English suits, he was always happy to talk. But he relished the privacy of self-im-

World War, he never lived there again, taking Canadian citizenship before settling in

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conflicts were present in almost all his books, though he seldom wrote of them directly. His own background was republican and Catholic, both faiths were to fascinate him all osed exile.

his life, but he subscribed to Mherever he was, he felt like neither. Belief and its absence, an outsider. Having left his and the crises either may native Belfast in the Second provoke, are his central themes. "In nearly all my novels," he observed, "I'm interested in the point in a California. Ireland and its person's life where whatever it

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is that they wanted or believed in — ambition, political or religious belief — is suddenly taken away from them, and they are forced to re-examine their lives up till then."

Brian (pronounced "Bree-

an') Moore was the fourth

child of a family of nine. His father was a surgeon, and a triend of Roger Casement. An uncle was the first commander-in-chief of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, forerunner of the IRA, and became Minister of Education in the Irish Free State. Two of Moore's brothers became doctors. He himself was educated at Catholic schools and then at St Malachi's College, Belfast. But he did not go on to university: war broke out, and he became an ARP first-aid worker and then a fireman during the air raids on Belfast. In 1943 he left for North Africa as a civilian try of War Transport. From 1945 to 1947 he was in Poland with a UN economic mission. In 1947 he left for Canada

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On 31 December 1998, the above
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of PolovasterinouseCoopers, No. 1

venmany ingenerates and Come Genham find and Rigid Servan RIII of PriorvasteshouseCoopen, No. 1 London Ridiga, London SEII 901, were suppointed joint liquidators by the shaveholder. The Residence give notes pursuant to Rigid 4.182A of the Residence of the shave company may send delating, in writing, of any chimagement the company new send delating, in writing, of any chimagement the company to the liquidators, at the above address by 15 February 1909, which is the least day for proving claims. The liquidators also give notion that they will then make a final distribution to credities and that a condition who does not make a claim by the tata manufactors with the field of the distribution. All known creditions with valid claims have been or will be paid in full.

full. Colin G Bird

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Merrell, Edward Stanley of 397 Racting Road Winnersh Berkahler died on 21st November 1995 par-ticulars to Ciliton Ingusa Solici-tors of 22 - 24 Second Street Wok-beglaam Berkeltine EG40 1BA be-fore 1Eth Names 1-00

one 15th March 1999

and became a proof reader for the Montreal Gazette. He spoke of this as a time of uncertainty, and felt himself to have failed. The experience fed his fiction: he was always more interested in failure than success; it gave, he thought, "a more intense distillation" of a

person's true self. In 1955 he published Judith Hearne (before this he had published two thrillers as Michael Bryan; two more followed in 1956 and 1958). Called The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne in America, and later republished under that title in Britain, it was a sensitive study of an alcoholic old maid in Belfast who sees her last chance of love destroyed. It was notable for its compassion and its refusal to sentimentalise. It was the first of the intimate female portraits at which Moore was to excel.

Moore followed Judith Hearne with The Feast of Lupercal (1957), about a shy schoolmaster. The Luck of Ginger Coffey (1960) had another failure as its subject an Irishman in Montreal. Other books followed steadily. many drawing on Moore's

own life, and some dealing explicitly with the problems of religious faith. Not all were equally well received, though the autobiographical The Emperor of Ice-Cream (1965) was praised for its restraint, and the sombre anti-clerical novella Catholics (1973) met with acclaim (except from the Church) and was later seen on British television in Moore's own adaptation. If Moore's themes remained

constant, his later work

showed an increasingly wide range of settings and styles. The Great Victorian Collection (1975) was a Californian fantasy of dreams come true. The Mangan Inheritance (1979) introduced an element of macabre romance to the story of a failed lrish poet. Black Robe (1983) was about a Jesuit missionary in 17th-century Quebec. The Colour of Blood (1987) was a Cold War thriller, Lies of Silence an equally gripping treatment of terrorist violence in Northern Ireland. No Other Life (1993) was a vivid study of tyranny, set in the Caribbean. The Magician's Wife (1997) deals with relations between Islam and the West. It was the nineteenth novel of his forty-

year career. Moore was twice married. His second wife Jean, whom he married in 1966, survives him with their son.

JIM PETERS

Jim Peters, marathon runner, died on January 9 aged 80. He was born on October 24, 1918.

10015

im Peters broke the marathon record four times in the 1950s, but wili always be remembered most for one of the most dramatic and poignant failures of modern athletics. Even younger and less sentimental sports followers wince when shown film of the Calvary endured by Peters in the Commonwealth Games in Vancouver in 1954, after he entered the stadium at the end of the marathon with an astonishing lead of some three

miles over the rest of the field. After setting his usual fast pace, despite the humidity and shade temperature of around 75F, the 35-year-old was suffering from severe dehydration fell more than half a dozen times, even crawling on all fours as he tried but failed to complete the last lap of the track to the finish

"I was completely bewildered," he recalled, "but I just didn't want to disgrace my wife and kiddies. I kept falling down but I remembered from the Games' six miles [in which he had won a bronze medall that it was definitely cooler under the shadow of the big stand. As I staggered to my feet once more I tried to move to the shade. Then someone grabbed hold of me and I passed out. Later, in the dressing room, I became conscious for a few minutes and found a nurse bending over me. Did I win? I asked her anxiously.

She smiled down at me. You did very well,' she said." For the rest of his life he was convinced that he had been robbed of the gold medal because, he argued, the course was nearly half a mile too long. Days before the race, Peters, his team manager and his England team-mate Stan Cox (who also failed to finish, after sunstroke caused him to collide with a lamp-post), had travelled the course by car and found it was nearly 27 miles.

Retiring from athletics after Vancouver, Peters unexpectedly received a Garnes gold medal on Christmas Eve 1954. inscribed from the Duke of Edinburgh: "As a token of admiration to a most gallant marathon runner." Just before his 80th birthday Peters, who had battled against cancer for several years, was touched to receive a letter of best wishes from the Duke.



Jim Peters staggering in the Vancouver marathon's last lap, which he could not finish despite his huge lead

Born at Homerton but then moving with his parents to Becontree. Jim Peters virtually had two separate athletics careers. The first began as a schoolboy footballer and cricketer in Essex, where he once took the wicket of a contemporary known as "Darkie" Alf

Though a junior mile champion of his county, Peters was deprived of the chance to develop in the sport by the outbreak of the Second World War, when he joined the RAMC. But when he was demobbed in 1945, with a wife and young child and work as a dispensing optician, he still wanted to run again. He went on to win the Essex cross-country title over seven miles and the county three miles on the track in 1946. Though an outsider, he then became the AAA six-miles champion at White City, winning by a wide

margin. He was AAA 10-miles champion in 1947, but in the 1948 Olympic 10,000 metres at Wembley he finished a disappointing ninth and might have retired. But on the train back from Wembley, his new coach, "Johnny" Johnston, pushed aside such thoughts, saying, "If you want to run in another Olympic Games, old boy, it will have to be in the

marathon." The partnership, involving daily training and speed sessions, both innovative at the time, was to transform international marathon racing. Peters set a British best from Windsor to Chiswick in the Polytechnic Marathon in 1951 and, a year later, broke the all-time record by nearly five minutes, with a time of 2 hours 20 minutes 42.2 seconds.

He dropped out of the 1952 Helsinki Olympic marathon with severe cramp, but had his finest year in 1953. The winner of no fewer than four top-class marathons, he reduced the record twice more. Then with his fourth Polytechnic victory. in 1954, he stopped the watches at 2 hours 17 minutes 39.4 seconds which was to remain the world's best for the dis-

tance for four years. These feats must be put in perspective. Peters was an amateur who fitted his exhausting training around his career as an optician. He raced wearing simple Dunlop gym shoes. "Modern sport shoes are so expensive," he said recently, "that I could probably have only afforded one of them."

His upper body action was so unwieldy — he hummed Al Jolson to himself to cope with the tedium - that he has been called "the first rock'n'roll athlete". Race photos prove that sometimes his arm action across his body was so pro-nounced that his thumb nail driving across his chest caused it to bleed through his

running vest. Reflecting on his running in 1996, Peters said: "We were the good, old-fashioned amateurs but the modern, well-paid athletes, good luck to them all. still have our old spirit. When the gun sounds you go out there to kill or be killed." Jim Peters is survived by his wife Frieda, a daughter and a son.

WOMEN DRIVING TRAMWAY CARS

By A CORRESPONDENT

l have been watching a woman driving a tramway car through Glasgow's most crowded streets. I did not know that they had "allowed" women to drive their cars in Glasgow, and so the sight took me by surprise. It suggested an experiment at first, and one is rather both to be experimented upon. But after half an hour this idea vanished.

During the first few moments, I will confess, the arguments against employing women on work of this kind were unpleasantly obtrusive. I remembered that, according to reliable authorities, women are unfitted to cope with an emergency demanding rapid decisions. They lack the nervous force which is a man's reservoir of strength in the evil hour; they are apt to "lose their heads"; they tend to respond too violently to excitement. The car came to a standstill in a traffic block while I was turning

ON THIS DAY

January 13, 1916

Trains in the First World War; aeroplanes in the Second. No obstacle could stand in the way of the advancement of the gentler sex

over these ideas, and I was aware suddenly that this event had taken place in a manner so nicely regulated that there was no sort of jolt or jar. It had not been thus on a man-driven car I had ridden in a short time before.

The car started again, too, in most gentle fashion, as though it was learning good manners from its driver and was anxious to do her credit. Then, as we were running along a well-known thoroughfare, a taxicab shot out from a

side street just in front of the car. It looked for a moment as though something was bound to happen, and I saw several of the passengers casting anxious glances at the trim, green-clad figure on the other side of the glass door. The girl disappointed their fears: with a quick movement she cut off the power and applied the brakes. It was well judged, for without inflicting undue discomfort on its freight, the car slowed down just sufficiently to allow the taxicab to pass, and then seemed to get into its stride again almost automatically.

That incident banished the arguments against employing women as drivers. But it brought other thoughts to mind. This girl, clearly, was not only able to drive her car, she was an exceedingly good and careful driver. She was a better driver than many of the men in the same service, because she spared her passengers and her vehicle. Her mind and interest seemed to be in the business. There was no hurry or excitement about her handling of the car; on the contrary, she remained quite



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CRY-1161D Charity Commission (HAETTE T) King's College Hospi-tal Charitable Trust; 27 % Thouse's Hospiral Charitable Pends 27 Thouse's Hospiral Trustees of Cry's Hospital

The Churky Commission has made a Scheme to amend the treats of these chartests; A copy can be seen for the usual month at 12 Google Square London ECA 35W Clerk ASP) or can be obtained by seeding a camped addressed envelope to NHS Charties Section, Churky Commission, 2nd Floor, 20 King's Pantice, Ocean's Dock, Livespool 13 4DQ, quoting the above reference.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Workfare testing for benefits

All benefit claimants, including the disabled and lone parents will be denied any state help unless they attend job interviews under radical reforms to be announced by the government today. All claimants of working age, except the disabled and lone parents will then have to take up a job offer or face losing their entire benefit under proposals which take Britain a step closer to American Workfare...

Rebels torch African capital

Hundreds of Ukrainian mercenaries are fighting alongside Sierra Leone's rebels who made good on their promise to burn Freetown to the ground and torched the power station, post office, town hall and UN headquarters, peacekeepers continued to try to drive out the rebels and claimed that they were conducting "mopping up operations".....

Kidnap trial

The leader of the Islamic kidnap gang who abducted 16 western tourists in a desert ambush is to go on trial for his life today in a court surrounded by high securi-...Pages 1. 5

Porn block

Schools are to be offered a powerful screening system developed by American space scientists which blocks pupils' access to Internet pornography even in otherwise innocent documents and email messages... ..Page l

Inquiry ignored

The Health Secretary Frank Dobson ignored the findings of a damning public inquiry report to reprieve the secure hospital at the centre of a paedophilia and pornography scandal.....

Couple's letter

The couple on the run with their foster daughters have written an emotional letter from an unknown address pleading to be allowed to adopt the girls....Page 3

Erosion scare

The Government was told to act urgently to counter the danger of further coastal erosion, in the wake of the landslide at Beachy Head. Stretches of the east and south coasts could be the next to collapse as torrential rains and high waves continue to pound .. Page 6

Clarke's team

Two former government ministers - Kenneth Clarke and David Mellor --- are on the teamsheet for the FA Premier League in its court battle to stop football clubs negotiating TV deals Page 7

Labour wrath

The old Etonian former ambassador. Sir David Gore-Booth, mounted a robust defence after facing the wrath of two New Labour women MPs....

Landmine grants

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund handed over more than £1 million to 13 landmine

EU pressure

The European Commission was under pressure to sacrifice two of its members - Edith Cresson of France and Manuel Marin of Spain — as the price for averting a censure vote ...

New victim

One of President Clinton's fiercest critics has became the latest victim of Larry Flynt, the pornogra-

Iraq attack

Amid growing tension in the Gulf an American F16 fighter fired on an Iraqi radar site in the northern no-fly zone, the sixth skirmish since the end of Operation Desert ...Page 14

Girl devises an internet code

An Irish girl was hailed as a mathematical genius after devising a new code for sending secret messages by computer. Sarah Flannery, 16, used the complicated science of cryptography to design a code ten times faster than the one currently used to convert confidential information so it can sent via the internet and



A lifeboat is hauled 14 miles across Exmoor by RNLI volunteers to commemorate the rescue of a schooner's crew by Louisa in 1899

BUSINESS

Trade war: The US will ask the World Trade Organisation on January 25 to approve hefty sanctions against goods from the European Union in their long-running row ... Page 23

Hangover: A profits warnings from Allied Domeco, the Beefeater Gin and pubs group, saw more than £850 million wiped off its stock mar-..Page 23 ket value.. Christmas cheer: Kingfisher, the re-

tail group, was one of few on the high street to enjoy some Christmas cheer, with a 3.2 per cent sales rise over the period _____Page 23 Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 51.40 to 6033.6. The pound fell 0.93 cents to \$1.6307 and 0.44p against the euro to 70.78p. The sterling index fell to 98.6, from 99.0....Page 26

Football: Ian Wright, the West Ham and England striker, is likely to be absent for at least the next six weeks after collapsing in training and requiring surgery on an in-Tennis: Greg Rusedski suffered his second successive first-round defeat when he was beaten in three sets by Gustavo Kuerten in the Sydney International......Page 44

Rugby union: For the second successive month the Rugby Football Union has been found guilty of breaches of International Rugby Board regulations...

Sknon Barnes: With the retirement of Michael Jordan the question must be asked: will we ever see his like again? The chances are pretty remote.

All grown up: Remember the malevolent nine-year-old Wednesday from the Addams films? Now Christina Ricci is a cynical 18-year-old with a new moviePage 34 Southern bells: The South Bank

Centre undoubtedly needs a facelift but the plans to demolish the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room are causing Page 34 Sister act: Julia Sawalha, Alison Steadman and Samantha Bond play three warring siblings in She-

lagh Stephenson's tragi-comic The Memory of Water Page 35 Dramatic renaissance: The transformation of New York's 42nd Street, once peopled by drug dealers and porn moviegoers, now the heart of theatreland...... Page 36

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ Brad Pitt as the

Forlani and life in

Paul Routledge's

biography of Peter

by John Grigg

Mandelson is reviewed

Meet Joe Black:

character Death who

falls in love with Claire

FILMS

BOOKS

Monied junides: The Marquess of Bristol was not the only heroin user with a vast inheritance......Page 17 Joanna Coles: "It is 9.30am and I am already birth-classed-out. Youcannot have a baby in Manhattan without being bullied into attending dozens of classes. Maternity tours, interviews with obstetricians, prenatal and maternal fit-

ness classes: I have obediently at-

tended them all"...... Page 17

Bugged: Can we ever win the war against super-bugs? Page 16 Nigel Hawkes: A breakthrough for treating blindness in old people and how tuberculosis can provide clues for historians and for South Seas anthropologists Page 16

Top site: One of London's great properties, 94 Piccadilly, known as the In and Out Club, is for sale. Have you £50 million?......Page 30

Sierra Leone is the world's largest producer of human misery: The UN estimates that some 440,000 have fled across the borders. As the fighting intensified hundreds of thousands abandoned their homesand joined the displaced. But what is worse is the terror. Rape and kidnapping have become commonplace - The Washington Post

preview: Girl power in the animal kingdom: Battle of the Sexes (BBC2, 8pm) Review; Holby City paints a rosier picture of the NHSD than Frank Dobson has been managing Pages 42.43

In Europe's name

It is better that there should be a short crisis than a European Commission shorn of credibility. MRPs should block their ears and vote for CERSUITE

Yemen and Finsbury

Whether or not the Finsbury mosque is running training camps. it is disturbing that London should have become a significant centre for those calling for Islamic revolu-

Benefit of the doubt

Ministers will not find it easy to persuade the public that those who suffered during life in the Services are not more likely to endure deafnessPage 19

SIMON JENKINS

Mr Blair makes John Major seem a Cicero and Mrs Thatcher a Demosthenes. I defy anyone to distil novelty from such waifle.......Page 18

BRONWEN MADDOX

Mr Clinton may have no self-restraint but he is undeniably tough. His response when attacked is to keep going...

ALAN COREN

Well, the good news is that you may have 142 fewer days to drive yourself nuts at the prospect of Jap uary 1, 2000

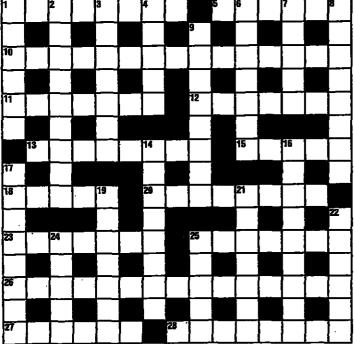
PETER RIDDELL

An answer would be to have an independent ethics commissioner who, with a small staff, would advise ministers and investigate any allegations of wrongdoing...Page &

Naomi Mitchison, author, Brian Moore, novelist: Jim Peters, marathon runner......

High standards demanded of Robin Cook; origins of Paris; organ donors' consent: Blair and the Lib-Dems; mursing shortage; Beachy Head cliff fall; Hendrix v Segovia; Union Jack's future Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,999



ACROSS

I In which contenders who've knocked out several others are matched (3.5). European city cut by conflict (6).

10 US government organisation, say, to retire workers ahead of time (5.10). Being agreeable, welcoming bridge opponents in friendship

(7). 12 Island where I come ashore again? (7).

13 Space behind house that could do

for dray (8). 15 This board carries out each step by both spirit and letter (5).

18 Here received characters ending life always? (5). 20 Rough ocean - it's liable to cap-

size one (8). 23 Fish that will quickly bite (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,998

SS

25 Learner winning at chess very quickly (7).

26 In which ads appear to offer business opportunity (10,5).

27 Not oil, but different liquid applied to body (6).

28 He was willing to benefit others by his death (8).

by his death (8).

Person sharing the bill, getting fruit, mostly (2-4).
 One on board making consum-

er's position clear (5,4). In dramatic epic, key equipmen used by mountaineer (3-4). 4 Starts off paper by foolishly copy-

ing others (5).
6 Old style of trade-off by company **(3,4)**. 7 City given another name when burnt (5).

8 Leave the field, having moderate result in match (8).

9 Herb and another fellow are in

14 A cold office in church - that's nice! (8). 16 Very rude about being broke (9).

Examination requiring no men-tal effort? (8). 19 Chief Superintendent somehow putting up with Morse (7). Show in the same place briefly in-

terrupting former success (7).
22 Middleman financially ruined kine (6). 24 Allow to enter commercial American university (5). 25 Narrow miss smoothly faced af-ter this? (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

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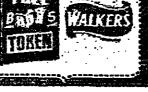
Sun sets: 4.17 pm

New moon: January 17th Condon 4.17 pm to 8.00 am Bristol 4.27 pm to 8.10 am Bristol 4.27 pm to 8.10 am Manchester 4.16 pm to 8.18 am Penzance 4.45 pm to 8.16 am



NEWSPAPERS

THE TIMES



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☐ General: England and Wales will start largely fine, but rain will soon reach the west and sweep across all areas during the morning and early afternoon. The rain will tast a lew hours before brighter weather

last a few hours before brighter weather spreads from the west.

Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be windy with rain and mountain-snow in the moning, followed by sunshine and squaffy showers this atternoon. Eastern Scotland will start dry and cold, but rain and hill-snow will quickly spread from the west, affithough steadily clearing in the afternoon. The Insh Republic will start wet and windy but become brighter with busslery showers. Tonight, Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be cold and very windy with squaffy wintry showers, perhaps giving bizzards over the mountains. The rest of the UK will be mainly dry with evening showers becoming confined to western coasts. A slight frost is likely in areas with shelter from the brisk wind.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Can-

the brisk ward.

London, SE England, E Angila, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Charmel Islands: a dry and bright start with a louch of frost, but cloud and rain will spread from the west, before it clears up again late in the day. A freshening southwest wind. Max 9C (48F).

W Midlands, SW England, S Walles, N Walles a band of rain will sweep in from the west this morning, but it will become brighter with just a few showers in the afternoon.

Bustery southwest wind. Mex 10C (50F).

NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England: a dry start but rain will quickly spread from the west, perhaps preceded by snow over the highest hills. The rain will give way to surny intervals and a few showers during the attempon. Blustery southwest wind. Max 7C (45F).

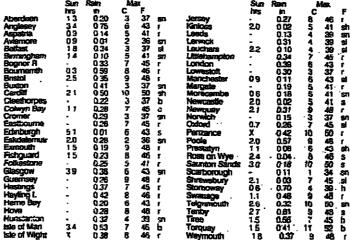
Bardiers, Edinburgh & Dunctes, Abert

Blustery southwest wind, Max 10C (50F)

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: rain and hill-anow will arrive later in the moming, but a will brighten up before the end of the effernoon. Strengthening SW wind with gales possible in north later. Max 8C (43-). Sw Scottand, Glesgow, Central High-lands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: ran and hat-snow followed by squally winty showers. Strong to gale westerly wind. Max 7C (45F).

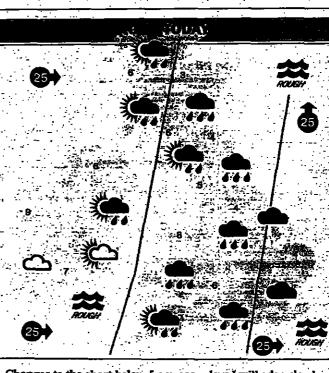
(Construction) Company Shetland: mostly dry at first, but rain will arrive letter in the morning and not clear until the early evening. Fresh southwest wind, becoming very strong later. Max 5C (41F). ☐ Republic of Ireland: wet and windy morning, turning brighter with blustery showers during afternoon. Wind tresh or strong SW turning W. Max 11C (52F)

☐ Outlook: very unsettled and often windy with showers and longer spells of rain, especially in the north, where it will be cold enough for snow over the hills.

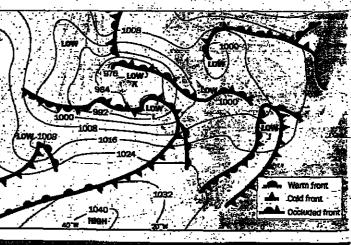


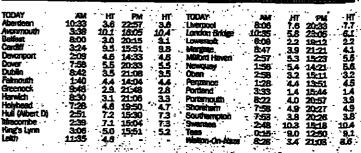
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Changes to the chart below from noon: low I will edge slowly southeast and deepen slightly, while low K fills in situ. Meanwhile,





AS brises GAIT. Heights in makes

Yesterday: highest day temp: Torquay (Devon) 11C (52F); lowest day max Scarborough (North Yorkshire) 1C (34F); highest rainfall; Capel Curig (Gwynadd) 1.31ins; highest sunshine: Edinburgh 5, thours.

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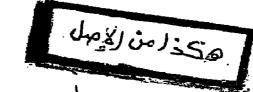
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MORE AND IN



INSIDE **SECTION TODAY**



ECONOMICS

Janet Bush says it is time to tear up Maastricht

PAGE 27



ARTS

How 42nd Street became the pride of New York **PAGES 34-36**



SPORT

Michael Jordan calls time on a great career **PAGES 37-44**

TELEVISION AND **RADIO Pages** 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 1999

Domecq's warning wipes off £850m

ALLIED DOMECQ, the Beefeater gin and Firkin pubs group, saw more than £850 million wiped from its stock market value yesterday after it issued a stark picture of trading in its

pub division. Its shares, which have performed strongly recently, closed 81/2p lower at 516p, cutting its market capitalisation from £6.2 billion to less than £5.4 billion. Earlier in the day, they hit a low of 505p, equivalent to a drop of al-

The setback will increase pressure

on the Allied board to find ways to restore shareholder value, after the failure of talks-about an alliance with Seagram, its Canadian rival.

Analysis reacted by cutting 1999 profit forecasts by an average of about 3 per cent. They are now expecting pre-tax profits of about £600 million in the year to Sentember comlion in the year to September com-pared with £615 million last year. The culprit was pubs, where like-for-like sales are 2.5 per cent lower in

At yesterday's annual meeting. Sir Christopher Hogg, the charman, told shareholders: The impact of eroding consumer confidence, first fied, particularly over the Christmas

Company sources indicated that while food sales in its Big Steak pubs had continued to rise, wet sales across its estate had declined dramatically. "Quite simply, people are not going into our pubs in such great numbers and when they do they're spending less. But it's not just Allied.

irs an industry wide problem. However, some analysts reacted angrily, with one saying: "This is like the Allied of the bad old days. While some of this is due to market conditions, you have to question how

management has responded to the

Another added: "Instead of just say ing that first-half profits would be lower and hoping for a hot summer to catch up, they admitted the full year would be down. Things must be bloody awful."

The news overshadowed strong sprits sales in the US and Europe and the £519 million sale last week of Cantrell & Cochrane, the Irish drinks distributor, which is expected to allow Allied to return up to £600 million to shareholders.

The nosedive in Allied's shares which had rallied from 389%p since October - was all the more stark given the group's remarks on con-solidation. Despite recent comments from Seagram, its Canadian rival, that appeared to rule out a spirits merger with Allied, Sir Christopher hinted that a deal could still be

He said: "It remains to be seen how Seagram will address its wine and spirits business in the future. I cannot speculate on any timing, but if there is a possible opportunity we would look at it again."

day, dragging down other companies in the sector, with Bass diving 74½p to 805p and Whitbread off 10½p to 767% p ahead of today's scheduled trading update.

Shares in Old English Pub Company dropped 48p to 262½p after it said that December's like-for-like sales declined by 2.9 per cent, partly because of the flu epidemic. However, Barry Varwick, chief executive, branded the drop as an over-reaction, adding: "The overall prospects for the future remain very bright".



Commentary, page 25 Blunt words: Charlene Barshefsky said Japan is failing to act responsibly

US facing trade war with Japan and Europe

By Carl Mortished and Alasdair Murray

AMERICA faces a trade war on two fronts because of growing tension over steel imports from Japan and the failure yesterday to avert a collision with

Charlene Barshefsky, the US trade representative, yesterday gave warning that the US would take legal action if Japan failed to stem the tide of cheap steel entering the US. Ms Barshefsky bluntly ac-cused the Japanese of failing to act responsibly in reviving their economy and said: "It is no secret that trade tensions between the United States and Japan are increasing quite dra-

American anger with Japan will be further aggravated by signs that the Bank of Japan was intervening in the currency markets, buying dollars in an effort to stop the rise of the yen. The dollar rose from Y108 to Y112 as the Bank of Japan attempted to prevent a strengthening yen from undermining Japan's efforts to export its

way out of recession. The warning given by Ms Barshefsky to Kaoor Yosano, Japan's Trade Minister, also coincided with a threat of sanc-Lurope. Hayes, the US envoy to the World Trade Organisation, said the US would apply for authorisation to impose sanctions against European imports worth some \$568 million

(£359 million). The US will make its request to the WTO on January 27 despite agreement at the trade organisation to set up a dispute resolution panel, re-quested by Ecuador. The Latin American country was one of the original complainants in the six-year dispute over EU

quotas favouring Caribbean

Under WTO rules, the request for sanctions is unlikely to fail because a refusal must be unanimous and the US Europe over bananas. takes part in the decision. The US has already published a list of European goods it will target, which include more than £80 million of UK exports, including cashmere

sweaters, potentially threaten-ing the struggling Scottish knitwear industry with the loss of some 900 jobs. WTO experts believe that the US determination in pursuing sanctions over the bananas is an attempt to test Europe's commitment to the WTO rules. One said: "They are trying to prevent the EU from engaging in a continuous loop of litigation."

A US trade spokesman pointed to the outstanding dispute over the European ban on beef hormones. "The deadline for European compliance is on May 13." Failure to comply is likely to lead to more US threats of sanctions.

The steel row could also cause Brussels and Washington to cross swords because to play its part in absorbing a flood of Asian exports. Europe an steelmakers are already launching anti-dumping complaints about Asian producers.

The Bank of Japan would not confirm its intervention yesterday but it would be the first by financial authorities since Japan and the US sold dollars to support the yen last June. The last known dollar-buying intervention by the Bank of Japan was in February 1996.

Commentary, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

* denotes midday trading prices Wembley signs

stadium deal WEMBLEY has signed the

of the Football Association, so ending nearly nine months of speculation about its future (Jason Nissé writes).

The FA will now set about trying to raise £200 million to fund the redevelopment of the stadium. The sale was agreed in April, but it has been held up because three non-executive directors objected. They approached Enic, the investment company, which said it is prepared to make a £230 million bid for Wembley.

Classic contest, page 27

Revenue approves 300 firms to sell Isa

By CAROLINE MERRELL

MORE than 300 companies have been cleared to offer the individual savings account (Isa), despite the financial services industry's initial misgivings about the viability of the scheme.
The Inland Revenue re-

vealed yesterday that 300 es had received authorisation to offer Isas, the Government's replacement for personal equity plans (Peps) and tax-exempt special

savings accounts (Tessas).

The high level of companies gaining authorisation follows more than a year of controversy about the accounts, which were unveiled at the end of 1997 by Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General. Companies claimed that the rules, and in particular a government-de-signed benchmark — the Cat standard - made the Isa economically unviable

Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury. said: "This is good news. It means that savers will be able to choose from a very wide range of Isa providers and products when the Isa is launched on April 6."

Marks & Spencer, J Sainsbury and Tesco were among those most critical of the Government's schemes. All three are now gearing up for the launch. M&S said yesterday that it was planning a big advertising campaign for its Isa-However, the supermarkets will not be offering the Isa at the checkous as originally en-

Cooklin leaves Signet to take helm at Thorn

By Sarah Cunningham, retail correspondent

Jones were up 1.1 per cent in the three weeks to Christmas

Eve. At H Samuel they fell 2.4

per cent. In the US, where it

trades as Jared and Sterling,

like-for-like sales rose 10.6 per

cent in the same period. Signet

shares rose 34p to 394p.

LAURENCE COOKLIN, the that like for-like sales at Ernest man who took over the running of Burton Group after the departure of Sir Ralph Halpern, is leaving Signet, where he has been in charge of the Ernest Jones and H Sanuel businesses for the past six years, to take the helm at Thorn. .

Thorn, which owns the Radio Rentals business, was bought by Nomura last year. after a dismal period as an independent company after its demerger from EMI. James McAdam, chairman

of Signet, will take day to day control of the group's British businesses while the company looks for a replacement UK chief executive. Signet, which is also listed on Nasdaq, now has most of its operations in the US and said that a strong performance there should mean that pre-tax profits for the year to January 30 will be ahead of expectations.

The group said yesterday

AXA puts in offer for GRE

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange (GRE), the embattled composite insurer, has re-ceived an informal approach from AXA, the French insurer, valuing the company at about

350p a share.

AXA, which owns Sun Life in the UK, has not tabled the offer formally. The board of GRE, led by John Robins, chief executive, is understood to have asked AXA to raise the offer. GRE is seeking closer to 500p a share.

Shares in GRE, which has a market capitalisation of al-most £3 billion, closed lp higher at 337p yesterday after four million shares changed hands. The insurer said last month it was considering a number of options for its future.

It has also emerged that Peter Owen, chief executive of

PPP, has been appointed heir apparent to Mr Robins, who is not expected to continue at GRE in the long term. GRE declined to comment on whether the company had

Kingfisher By Sarah Cunningham KINGFISHER, group, yesterday declared the nigh street to have been the winner at Christmas. Its high street chains, Woolworths and

A Christmas

cracker for

Superdrug, outperformed Com-et and B&Q, which are mainly in out-of-town retail parks. In the nine weeks to January 2, group like-for-like sales grew by 3.2 per cent. Woolworths and Superdrug, which are heavily dependent on Christmas sales, had like-forlike growth of 5.2 per cent and

5 per cent, respectively. B&Q, the DIY business, and Cornet, the electricals superstore chain, fared less well. B&O saw like-for-like sales rise 0.6 per cent, while Comet sales were down 0.9 per cent. Darty, the French electricals business, had like-for-like sales growth of 2 per cent. Total sales for the group, which has just completed the merger of B&Q with its French

equivalent. Castorama, were

from £1.61 billion. This was after growth from acquisitions and new stores as well as likefor-like growth. Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief

in the run-up to Christmas. but overall we are pleased with the group's performance, which leaves us well placed to meet our targets for the year." Matalan, another retailer emphasising value for money, yesterday reported strong Christmas trading. In the five weeks to January 2, like-forlike sales rose by 11.4 per cent. Matalan said that annual pretax profits, to be announced in March, will be not less than £23 million, which is well above current City forecasts. Kingfisher's shares fell 25p

to 624% p yesterday. Matalan's rose 17p to 3691/sp.

Tempus, page 26

Incorrect tax bills sent to 800,000

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

THE Inland Revenue has sent out incorrect income tax bills to 800,000 self-employed people. The errors on self-assessment state ments of account led the unfortunate recipients to believe that they had to

pay twice as much as they had been exwith calls from anxious clients fearing payment system under self-assess-

that they might not be able to meet ment. For the first time they are being these liabilities. The self-assessment taxed on current year earnings, rather payment deadline is January 31.

Chris Humphrey, a tax consultant from Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, called the blunder a "scandal". One of his clients who had anticipated a bill of about £1,200 had received a statement giving a figure of £2,400.

Many of the self-employed are al-

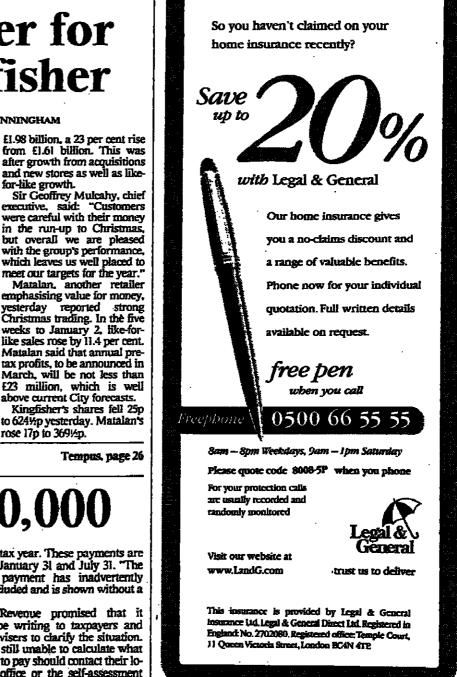
The second secon

than the previous year's as under the old system. On January 31, thousands will be paying not only the remaining tax for 1997-98 but also the first instalment of tax owing for 1998-99.

Admitting its mistake yesterday, the Revenue explained that the wrong figures appeared on statements sent to ready reeling from the change to the those self-employed who were due to make payments on account for the

1998-99 tax year. These payments are due on January 31 and July 31. "The second payment has inadvertently been included and is shown without a

The Revenue promised that it would be writing to taxpayers and their advisers to clarify the situation. Anyone still unable to calculate what amount to pay should contact their local tax office or the self-assessment



Vickers and Giat in talks

Vickers, the engineering group, has confirmed it is in talks with Giat Industries. 2 French defence group, aimed at forming a joint venture company for supplying land defence equipment. The memorandum of intent signed yesterday between the two companies is a further step in the consolidation of the European land defence industry.

The alliance will initially cover functions such as sales and research, and will not include pooling manufacturing facilities.

The joint venture would not cover Vickers's Challenger 2 tank and Giat's Leclerc tank, which are in direct competition.

Amec trading holds up

Amec. the engineering and construction group, yesterday sought to reassure the City that its trading was holding up and order books were steady. It told the market that trading was in line with expectations - despite "general uncertainties" in the UK economy - ahead of the publication of its results on March II.

Peter Mason, chief executive, told analysts that prospects had been brightened by its £80 million contract for a section of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, its preferred bidder status for the E70 million West Anglia and North Thames rail infrastructure maintenance contract and a £75 million order for Southern Water.

Cortecs closure

Cortecs, the troubled drug development company, is making 75 staff redundant and closing its Isleworth, west London, head office. Shares in Cortecs rose 40 per cent to 26p yesterday. More than 9.2 million shares were traded, reflecting interest sparked by Nomura International's acquisition of a stake of more

EXCHANGE RATES

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Manufacturing woes raise hopes of European rate cut

AND ADAM SAGE

GERMANY suffered an unexpectedly sharp contraction in industrial output in November while French inflation slipped to a 44-year low last year, raising hopes of an early cut in European interest rates.

The weak manufacturing outlook was further backed up by a separate report showing manufacturing activity across the euro zone declining for the third consecutive month in

However, European consumer confidence rose to a ten-year

MORGAN Stanley Dean Witter

has become the first American in-

vestment bank to top the UK

mergers and acquisitions table

after advising on deals worth

Schroders came a close sec-

ond with 28 transactions val-

ued at £18.3 billion, while La-

zards, last year's winner, slipped to fourth behind Gold-

man Sachs, the Wall Street

partnership that shelved its

David Rothnie, editor of Ac-

quisitions Monthly, the maga-

zine that compiles the league tables, said it had been a

record year for M&A activity.

The total value of UK public

deals hit £90 billion, smashing

He said: "The most remarka-

ble aspect of 1998 was the

sheer volume of activity, com-

ing as it did in a year of eco-

nomic turbulence, with banks

adopting a cautious approach

to funding buyouts and IPOs

during the third quarter. Nev-

ertheless, a strong final quar-ter meant UK M&A activity

broke all records."

the previous record of £67.7 bil-

lion in 1**99**5.

own flotation last autumn.

more than £19 billion in 1998.

spot amid a string of otherwise gloomy data

Germany, Europe's largest economy, recorded a 2.3 per cent fall in industrial output, about three times more than the market expected. The manufacturing element of the data showed an even sharper fall, registering a decline of 2.4 per cent. Economists said the figures were so weak that the German economy as a whole is likely to show a contraction across the fourth quarter.

The separate euro zone purchasing managers index stood at 46.9 in December, down

The ascendancy of Morgan

Stanley, said Mr Rothnie,

demonstrated that some US

banks now have an estab-

lished reputation for provid-

ing quality advice on UK pub-

lic transactions. During the

year, the bank worked on two

multibillion-pound deals for

The Energy Group, as well as GA's merger with Commer-

league by number of transac-

tions, which included the

pitched battle between Argos

and Great Universal Stores, and the acquisition of Allied

Colloids by white knight Ciba

Speciality Chemcials. Other

deals included the GA/CU

merger and Nomura's pur-

Most improved bank was

Credit Suisse First Boston, a

new entry at number six, after

its £100 million acquisition of

BZW's equities and corporate

advisory businesses at the

end of 1997. Barings, winner in both 1996 and 1995, contin-

ues to slide down the league

table, slipping two positions to fifteenth.

chase of Thorn.

cial Union.

Morgan tops

UK mergers

league table

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

high, providing one bright from 47.2 in November and pointing to a further decline in activity. Inflation pressures remained almost non-existent. with the cost of raw materials

> Dr Frank Schröder, German economist at HSBC Trinkaus. said: "Given the weakening industrial picture throughout euroland, we expect the European Central Bank to cut the repo rate by a quarter point in

and semi-manufactured goods

Analysts also turned up the pressure on the ECB for an interest rate cut by pointing to evidence that other measures of

inflation remain subdued across Europe.

Consumer inflation France, with prices rising at an annual rate of just 0.3 per cent, sparked fears of a dellationary spiral in the heart of

The French Government yesterday announced the virtual price stability in triumphant tones, pointing out that with growth of 3.1 per cent last year. the spending power of French households had improved con-

the euro zone.

siderably. Statisticians said the last time France had an inflation lower than last year's was in 1953,

when prices slumped by 2.3 per cent, provoking a period of social and political instability. Deflation at the wholesale level also gathered pace in Spain,

with prices falling 2.1 per cent in the year to November after a 1.8 per cent decline the month before.

However, Eurostat, the European Commission's statistical office, said euro zone consumer confidence rose to its highest level since early 1990. Consumers are showing a positive attitude towards large purchases and a more optimistic approach to the general eco-

Mirror proposal deadlocked

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

newspaper company.

PDFM, which is enthusiastic about the strategic potential of a Trinity-Mirror merger, wanted to hold a "post mortern" and inquire whether a deal was still possible. But for the moment at least the chances seem less likey. Mirror shares rose 3p to

Trinity and

MEDIA EDITOR

FINANCIAL advisers were yesterday unable to break the deadlock in merger talks between Mirror Group and Trinity, the UK's largest regional

Trinity, whose titles include the Daily Post in Liverpool and the Belfast Telegraph, withdrew on Sunday and said that it has no intention of making the first move. The Mirror board also said that it does not intend to approach Trinity. It is believed that there were no contacts between the two groups yesterday, formal or otherwise.

Senior Mirror executives met esterday with Philips & Drew Fund Management (PDFM), which holds a 22 per cent stake in the company...

169p. Trinity rose 104p to 439p. Any deal would trigger a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation which could last up to eight months.

Bullough aims to make acquisitions

BULLOUGH, the engineering, heating and office furniture company, plans to make several acquisitions to strengthen its specialist engineering businesses in the face of "worsening market conditions". The company, which last year sold three of its refrigeration businesses for EI6 million, said that it would also use the cash raised from its disposal programme to increase organic investment and to repurchase shares.

The company was reporting a rise in profits from its continuing operations in the year to October 31 to £19.4 million, from £19.1 million, on turnover up 11 per cent to £203 million (£184 million). Pre-tax profits before exceptionals fell to £18.3 million (£19.0 million). An unchanged 4.51p final dividend keeps the total at 5.8p. Gordon Bond, chief executive said: The current year will be a difficult one if current economic conditions are anything to go by, and we are respond-ing accordingly. We are simply playing to our strengths."

Savills raises earnings

SAVILLS, the property agency, reported a 28 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax earnings to E5.2 million. Although the resuits were in line with expectations, the company's shares slipped op to 117p. A collapse in the share price in the summer is believed to have prompted First Pacific Davies, a shareholder, to line up a takeover bid. FDP, however, cannot acquire more of the stock until April because of a standstill clause in a partnership agreement. The interior dividend rises 40 per cent to 1.75p.

Tempus, page 26

Rentokil spends £37m

RENTOKIL INITIAL, the business services company, yesterday announced eight acquisitions for a total of £37 million. The purchases include two textile services businesses. Adrett in Germany and BTMF in France, and the Initial Staffing franchisee in Cincinnati in the US. Five security businesses have also been acquired: Crime Halt Security Systems, Wol-sey Comcare Alarm Systems and Capstan, all in the UK, Alert Security Systems in The Netherlands, and Minion Manned Guarding in Alberta, Canada.

WYKO warning

WYKO, the engineering group, reported increased profits yes-terday but gave warning that "demand has become more er-ractic". The group lifted pre-tax profits to £6.2 million for the half year to October 31, from 55.9 million last time. Philip White, chairman, said: "If the pre-Christmas level of demand does continue into the new year, profits in the second half will be adversely affected and are then unlikely to match the first half performance." Earnings per share were 6.41p (6.1p) and an interim dividend of 1.8p (1.65p) was declared.

Dudley Jenkins rises

SHARES in Dudley Jenkins, the direct mail supplies group, rose nearly 14 per cent after the company announced it was at an "advanced stage" of takeover talks. The company said that any offer would be at 580p per share, a premium of 18 per cent to Monday's closing price of 492kp. In July, the group reported full-year pre-tax profits of £3.63 million (£2.65 million) on turno-ver of £23.13 million. Tylan Bahcheli, chairman, views 1999 with "cautious optimism". The shares, which have risen from a low of 312p in October, yesterday closed up 67kp at 560p.

Bespak shares fall

SHARES of Bespak fell 681/2p to 9171/2p yesterday after the medical devices manufacturer said that the decline in sales of valves for its CFC inhalers would be "greater than originally anticipated" and would offset growth in other areas. Inhaler valves provide about 45 per cent of group sales worldwide. The warning came as Bespak announced record first-half profits of £7 mil lion for the six months to October 30, up from £6.6 million, on sales of £41.9 million (£42.3 million). Earnings per share were 20.3p (18.9p) and the interim dividend is 5.6p (5.1p).

Aggregate optimism

AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES, the quarrying group that recently pulled out of a ELS billion merger with Tarmac, the construction group, yesterday said trading had been rock-solid to the end of last year. In a trading update, AI said that it had produced savings of £13 million a year since its formation as a result of a merger between Bardon and Camas in 1997. Most of the improved results came from the US, with strong demand reported in all markets. Favourable weather in the US extended Al's working season. Al shares remained at 69p.

First Leisure in talks Gold price tarnished

Ellis & Everard: the chemicals

distributor, where Peter Wood.

above, is chief executive, saw

pre-tax profits in the half year

FIRST LEISURE yesterday admitted that it was discussing "a number of strategic alternatives" with third parties, sparking a fresh round of takeover speculation in the leisure sector.

There have been suggestions that Luminar, the nightclub and theme bar operator, or even Rank Group might be eyeing First Leisure. However, analysts were last night strongly tipping Luminar to make a move on Northern Leisure, the rival nightclub group.

First Leisure, which was forced to make a statement by the Takeover Panel after a sharp rise in its share price on Monday, said its talks were "at a very

exploratory stage", adding: "It is therefore too soon to predict whether they will result in any agreement at all."

Observers believe Michael Grade, chief executive, is seeking a deal in a bid to revive the group's ailing share price. Over the summer it slumped from 4361/p to 1601/p. Its rise this week to 224p is largely based on hopes of a bid.

But observers believe the tone of yesterday's statement indicates that a takeover of, or by. First Leisure is unlikely. One said: "What you might see is some sort of strategic alliance or joint venture with the likes of Vardon on the health and fitness side,"

By Carl Mortished, international business editor

Tempus, page 26

to October 31 improve 3 per

cent to £17 million. The interim

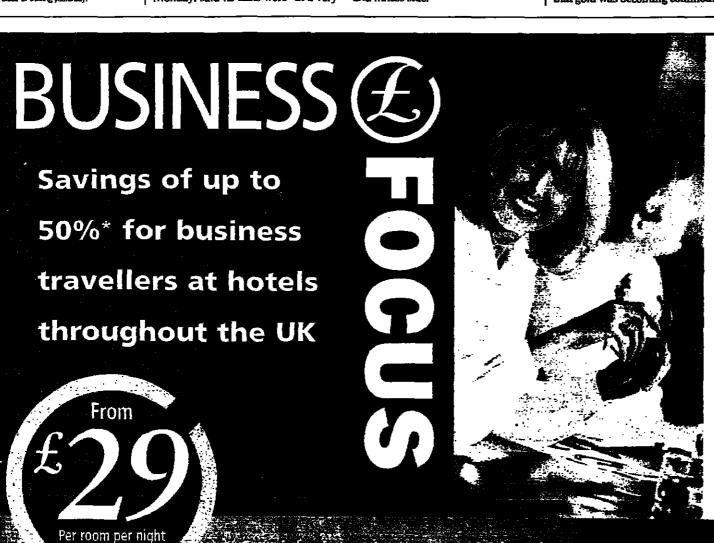
dividend rises 3 per cent to 3.6p

THE gold market is heading for a year of stagnation after suffering the iowest average annual price in two decades. A combination of weak demand, sales from central banks and falling costs of production has per-suaded Gold Field Mineral Services (GSMS), the commodity researchers, that the gold price will remain stuck in a range of between \$270 and \$310 per ounce.

GFMS said yesterday that the average gold price for 1998 was \$294 per ounce, the lowest for 20 years. Paul Walker, spokesman for GFMS, said that gold was becoming commoditised

and losing its status as a hedge against inflation, as investors sought greater security in dollars and US government bonds. According to GFMS, currency weakness resulted in 1,000 tonnes of gold flowing into the market from Indonesia, Korea and Thailand, as peo-ple turned their jewellery into cash.

The average cash cost worldwide of producing an ounce of gold fell by \$50 to less than \$200 from the third quarter in 1997 to that of 1998-"It's a phenomenal fall; most mines will continue producing as long as they can cover their operating costs," Mr Walker



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Aberdeen

Basingstoke

Birmingham

Ashford

Aviesbury Basildon Bexley Brentwood Bristol Cambridge Chester Dublin Farnborough Glasgow Erskine Gloucester pswich Lancaster Leeds/Bradford Leicester

Derby/Burton

Edinburgh

Epping .

Fareham

Washington Glasgow Airport Guildford Haydock Hemel Hempstead High Wycombe Preston Hull Marina Maidstone/Sevenoaks Manchester Airport

Newcastle upon Tyne Norwich **Nottingham City** Nottingham/Derby Reading Rochester South Mimms Southampton Southampton/Eastleigh

Rugby/Northampton --

Stoke on Trent

Swindon

Teesside

Taunton

Wakefield

-Warrington/Runcom

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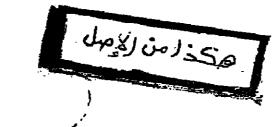
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Y Ker warning

NEW MIRE

f there is any rival out there who believes that BFR and Siebe should not be joined to gether, he is keeping his peace un-til the very last moment. Despite

investor hopes that more gener-ous souls than Lord Marshall and Allan Yurko might decide to ride to Ian Strachan's rescue, the weeks have ticked by without a sign of a company prepared to put a higher value on BTR than Mr Strachan himself has done. So today shareholders will almost certainly vote through the deal, although in a spuit more of resigna-Yet the challeinge that those two companies faced in marketing their proposed marriage are as nothing compared with the problems that lie ahead for Lasmound Enterprise Oil 16 percent

mo and Enterprise Oil. If news of their flirting has met with a sceptical response, it is hardly surprising, since their previous encoun-ter was in a bid which fully lived up to its designation as "hostile". Times, and the oil price, change and so, force majeure, do relationships. But the two companies might have had a better chance of convincing the market of the merits of a get-together had the idea not leaked extremely prematurely. The ensuing speculation as to who would constitute the top

Yet the potential value in putting the two companies togeth-

team in the combined operation was hardly guaranteed to foster a new spirit of friendliness between

An Enterprise worth exploring

er does ment giving them the chance to explore the idea in some depth. They could prove to be surprisingly compatible.

Both companies are already embarked on cost cutting exercises, necessarily more drastic at Lasmo than at Enterprise, so there will be only limited scope to cut still further after a merger. A decision to exit completely, rather than merely scale back, Enter-prise's presence in lavish Trafalgar Square offices might, however, be judged a sensitive move.

There could be more positive aspects, however, to rolling the two exploration and production companies into one With Lasmo facing some hefty write-offs, biamed on investments made be-fore the sensible Joe Darby took over the reins, there are fears that the company could be forced perately mean marketplace. As part of a financially stronger enterprise, painful forced sales could be avoided. And together the companies might find they could offer investors a portfolio with a more reassuring balance of geographic and financial risks and future profit prospects than



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

convincing to the companies themselves, they will face the tricky question of who will run the show. More immediately ap-pealing link-ups have foundered on a few people's job prospects. The suave Rudolph Agnew is big enough to happily move onto the next challenge, allowing Sir Gra-ham Hearne to chair the pairing. But peither Pierre Jungels nor Joe Darby deserve to be cast in the Ian Strachan role.

Charlene may yet drive us bananas

ow deeply is the United States committed to free trade? Absolutely, every blue-blooded American would say. Let's hope so. The open trading system depends on that American commitment, in the face of age old protectionist ten-dencies in continental Europe. ifther can alone.

Over the next two years, how— Its trade gap will reach ever high—
If those arguments do prove ever, that commitment will face a er records as Asia relies on ex-

severe test. It will certainly be the toughest since the high-dollar era of the mid1980s, possibly the most stressful since the postwar Bretton Woods accord. The only reason the world econ-

omy has not followed Japan, Russia and the Asian "tigers" into recession is that American consumers are holding it up. They are still spending like there is a tomorrow that they can rely on. Asia is not importing much. Countries tend not to if, as in Indonesia, your currency retains only a quarter of its exchange val-

ue of 18 months ago or if, as in Japan, your economy has scarcely grown in a decade. Even Brazil is undergoing a medicinal squeeze. No wonder the German capital goods industry is in trouble. Not surprisingly, the US trade deficit is growing by leaps and bounds. It has to if the rest of the world economy is to recover be-

fore the US tires of the burden.

Sears to

sell credit

card firm

SEARS will today attempt to spike the guns of Philip Green, the entrepreneur lay-

ing siege to the troubled retail-

er, by announcing the sale of its credit eard business (Sa-

rah Cunningham writes). The sale of Creation Finan-

cial Services — the announce-

ment of which will accom-

pany what is expected to be a

poor Christmas trading state-

ment - is expected to be for more than £120 million.

mans, its catalogue busi-ness has been trading partic-

ularly poorly.
Mr Green, who is believed

to have fined up buyers for

Creation and Freemans, will

decide on his next move after

seeing the Sears trading state-ment. His last conditional of-

fer for Sears — before Christ-mas — was of 340p a share,

but was rejected. Sears shares

Analysts believe that Free-

port led growth to get its economies moving again. The US and the European Union may have instructed the rest to rely on internal recovery, but no one ever thought they could. American industry will still

complain ever more bitterly as it sees exports dry up and imports eat into existing markets as well as feeding increases in US domestic demand and those complaints will carry weight with a weak-ened President. Next year, look-ing after American industry will be the stuff of campaigns to elect new President.

How depressing, then, that the US should be stepping the rheto-ric up to fever pitch already. In Tokyo yesterday, US Trade Representative Charlene Barsheisky threatened Japan with "punitive sanctions" unless it took action over steel exports and much else. In Geneva, US trade ambassador Rita Hayes said the US would go ahead with sanctions forcing 100 per cent tariffs on

\$500 million of imports from the EU in the endless banana dispute, where US policy is guided by the former United Fruit.

This courtroom hype is for do-mestic ears. It is also the sort of diplomacy that ends in war. Right now, a trade war is not what the world economy needs.

Two halves please, barman

an it be that they do not go near such places them-selves? Analysts appear to have been more than a little surprised to hear of the dismal sales performance at Allied Domeon pubs, hence they had not seen yesterday's profits warning coming. Yet back in October, Allied was sounding anything but optimistic about the prospects for the busi-ness, cutting back investment plans and warning of the effects of increased competition. What has been happening in the real economy, rather than the stock market, since then may have encouraged the man in the street to drown his sorrows, but he may have opted to do so more cheaply

at home than in his local. Allied increasingly looks like a

tially swift and one a laggard. Seeing approaching £1 billion wiped off their investment can only encourage investors to push harder for the demerger that they have long been hoping Sir Christopher Hogg would instigate. He has recently seemed to be warming to the idea. Allied's international drinks

business has performed remarka-bly well, considering the state of world markets. That the long dis-cussed possibility of a close link with Seagram has been publicly shelved by the Canadians is not the disaster that it might have seemed a couple of years ago. Al-lied also has a stable of strong retail brands. The pub trade still has its afficionados. Allied should ask them in for a friendly drink immediately.

Style and substance

MONSIEUR Bernard Amault's approach to the business game combines the tactics of a chess player with the occasional tantrums of the tennis court. His former boardroom colleagues at Guinness speak fondly of his contribution to Anglo-French relations, which at one stage threatened to block the merger with Grand Metropolitan to create Diageo. Even they would have to admire the way in which he is now tying both Gucci and Prada more tightly into his DFS shop-ping empire: a truly stylish deal.

JJB issues profits warning

JJB SPORTS, the sports reprofits warning after disastrons Christmas trading by Sports Division, the business it bought last year (Sa-rah Cunningham writes). JJB, whose shares fell 13

per cent to 249p in response, is calling a share-holders' meeting next month to seek consent to buy back its shares. It will buy up to 5 per cent this year if the price stays low. In the seven weeks to January 9, Sports Divi-sion's like-for-like sales,

stripping out new stores, fell ló per cent. For the 49 weeks to that date, they fell 11 per cent. Stores trading as JJB fared far better. managing a like-for-like sales increase of 7.4 per cent over the Christs weeks, and a 0.3 per cent inArjo gets set for three-way split

By Carl Mortished, international business editor

ARJO Wiggins Appleton, the Angle French paper business, has effectively put a "for sale" sign on itself and removed its chief executive after announcing plans to repackage its sprawling empire into three independent divisions.

Ken Minton, Arjo's chair-man, said that Philippe Beylier would leave the group because a chief executive would not be needed under the new structure. •

Mr Minton, who is taking on the role of executive chairman, said that Arjo would be left with three distinct businesses with little synergy between them: carbonless and thermal paper; fine, speciality and chated paper; and paper merchanting.

Mr Minton said that the

plan was to develop the busi-

nesses separately to enhance shareholder value. He said: "I. have no doubt that the sum of the parts can be demonstrated to be substantially greater than the whole."

He said that a sale, a demerger or a flotation were likely options, but he doubted that any of the businesses would be suitable for a management buyout. "We will look at the various options when it is right to do so," he said.

Shares in the paper group rose from 109% to 115p after news of the possible break-up. Mr Minton insisted that the result for 1998 would be in line with expectations and that there were no plans for large restructuring charges. He said: "There is no black hole.

M Bevlier will receive compensation of about £830,000 based on a two-year service

Arjo has been a disastrous investment for its shareholders, having almost halved in value since the merger that formed the group in 1991, when it was worth £2 billion. Mr Minton confirmed that at least £1.5 billion had been invested in the business since then, but, even after yesterday's share price boost, the company had a market value of just under £1 billion.

Arjo has previously tried to shed its carbonless paper operation. One analyst said: "In this business, it may be difficult to turn off all the lights and go home."

Arnault raises Gucci stake in deal with Prada

By Fraser Nelson

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, has agreed a secret deal with Prada whereby his company will acquire the Italian fashion house's 9.5 per cent stake in Gucci (See Commentary, this page).

Prada has agreed to sell for an undisclosed amount believed to be about £200 million - 20 per cent below market value. This gives LVMH a 14.4 per cent stake in Gucci.

In return M Arnault will sell Prada clothes through DFS, its Far East network of shopping arcades, on similar terms to those of LVMH's own labels, which include Christian Dior and Kenzo.

The deal leaves LVMH with greater control over both its Italan rivals, becoming one of Prada's largest distributors and

M Arnault now has ten days to decide whether to make a formal bid for Gucci. However shares of both companies fell yesterday on the expectation that M Arnault will now lie low and enjoy the new flow of internal Gucci trading information.

Analysts believe that M Ar-

nault sees Gucci and Prada as the salvation of DFS, a network of Far Eastern airport fashion arcades that he bought just before the economic crisis two years ago. M Arnault believes the economy is about to rebound, and that DFS commands most of the sites where Gucci and Prada would wish to expand.

LVMH generates 40 per cent of its sales from the Far East. Gucci generates 38 per cent and Prada about 35 per cent. Gucci

Boost for HMV Media

HMV MEDIA, owner of Waterstone's bookshops and HMV music shops. looks to be heading for an early flotation (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The group, whose chairman is Tim Waterstone, envisaged a float within 18 to 36 months when it was formed in March 1998. Alan Giles, HMV chief executive, who ran Waterstone's when WH Smith owned it, said that a "heartening Christmas performance" had aided flotation prospects. He would not rule out a float before autumn. Comparable store sales rose 4.9 per cent over Christmas.

In the company's second quarter, to October 24, operating profit rose £10.5 million to £14.6 million. Finance charges of £33 million led to a first-half loss of £16.1 million.

STANDARD LIFE BANK

Business Account rate changes.

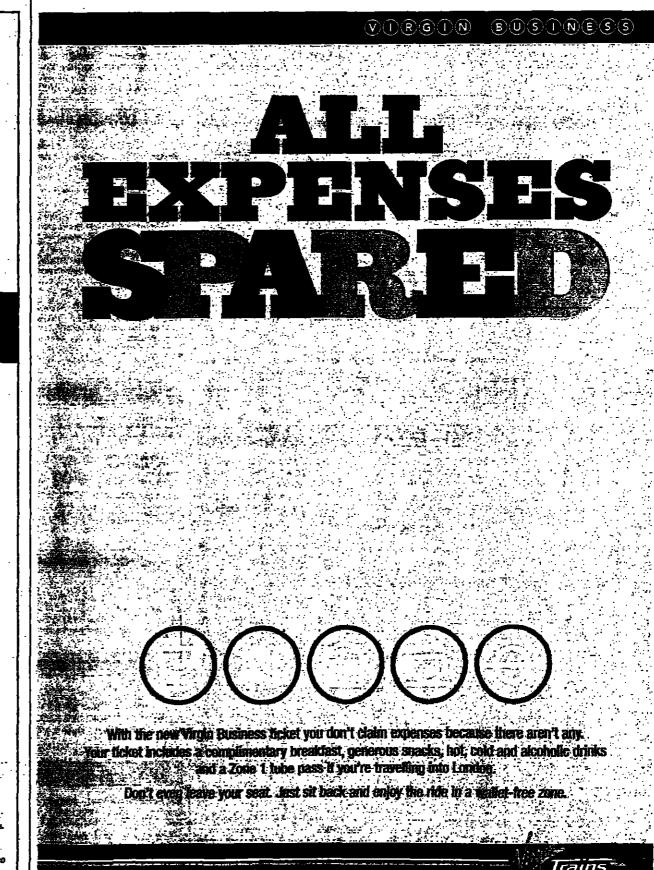
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PHONE LINES OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY BAM-9PM, SATURDAY BAM-5PM http://www.standardlifebank.com



Blue chip shares fall as investors return to basics

SOME of the speculative froth was blown off share values as City investors switched their focus of anention back to fundamentals. The profits warning from drinks giant Allied Domecq. down 814p at 516p. has left a nasty taste in their mouths and cast doubts on the ability of blue chip stocks to achieve the same rate of returns as in the past.

This, combined with open-ing losses on Wall Street, saw London reverse its early gains. The FTSE 100 index, up 55.3 points at one stage, eventually closed down 51.4 at 6,033.6. Turnover topped more than 1.2 billion shares, while the FTSE 250 index ended just 4.9 down at 4,977.1.

Heavy turnover was recorded in BP Amoco, up 17kp at 906kp (33 million shares); Billiton, up 3%p at 122p (27.9 million); Shell, Mp easier at 349p (24.8 million): and BTR. *p

cheaper at 1161/2p (17.49 million). Positive comments from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell lifted Tesco 914p to 18514p (32.4 million shares). The broker has moved from "neutral" to "outperform" and claims the shares remain the most attractive play in the food retail sector.

The comments from DMG about Tesco come hard on the heels of a positive report from Credit Lyonnais, the broker, which has gone "overweight". Asda firmed ip to 161p, J Sainsbury 34p to 4684p and William Morrison Supermarkets 7p to 3141/2p.

Royal & SunAlliance retreated 15p to 522p after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker. cut its recommendation from "add" to "hold". There was heavy turnover in GRE, 4p better at 337p, amid claims that the group had agreed terms with Axa, the French insurer.

It took long enough, but Michael Grade and the board of First Leisure have confirmed they are in talks about a number of "strategic initiatives". Why else would the shares have climbed steadily since October, from a low of 1601/2? A management buyout

is now considered unlikely. The speculators are pinning their hopes on a bid from the likes of either Bass, down 74/2p at 805p, or Rank Group. Talks of a merger with Luminar, 5p off at 675p, persist, although the night club operator is also being linked with Northern Leisure, 24:p cheaper at 112p. First Leisure slipped 8p to 224p,



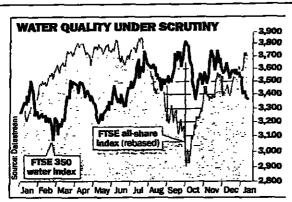
Luke Johnson has a 7 per cent stake in United Carriers and could be putting the finishing touches to a reverse takeover

while Rank fell 10%p to 209%p amid fears that Douglas Yates. the acting chief executive, is to be appointed full-time. The City had been hoping for a strong external candidate.

Dan Wagner's Dialog Corporation climbed 15½p to 731/2p, reflecting fresh demand for Internet suppliers in the US, where there has been a strong rerating of the sector.

Things appear to be warming up nicely at United Carriers, up 64:p at 334:p, the latest vehicle for the former stockbroker and pizza king Luke Johnson. He has built up a 7 per cent stake and may be putting the finishing touches to a reverse takeover. He has established a

reputation as a dealmaker. Shield Diagnostics' loyal fan club was again giving



THE water companies are now facing up to close scrutiny from Ofwat, the industry regulator, over their pricing policies.

Some investors say that the sector has lost the sparkle that it enjoyed a few years back, when takeovers and lucrative dividends were common.

However, Crédit Lyon-nais, the broker, has been telling clients that value for money may still be found. being tipped by CL are Anglian Water, down 12p at 795p, and United Utilities, 2p easier at 790p.

The broker still expects companies such as Anglian and UU to be in the bedrock of most portfolios and is confident of solid dividend growth despite the attention of Ofwat.

Elsewhere in the sector yesterday, Hyder rose III/p to 792/p and Severn Treat firmed 6p to 948p, while Pennon Group eased 34/p retreated 19p to £10.63 and Yorkshire Water shed 84p

chase, with the price closing 42/2p dearer at 537/2p. Word is the company, which has developed a process for detecting heart ailments via a simple blood test, may be about to

make a bullish announcement. Airtech raced up 8p to 35/4p yesterday. The company says it is in talks with several par-ties, which could lead to a merger. Filtronic, down op at 641/2p, is a possible suitor.

Is Albright & Wilson going be the next company to come under the hammer in the chemicals sector? The price firmed 4p to 68½p in heavy turnover of 7.34 million shares. The company is worth more than £200 million.

There seems to be no stopping Cortecs, where bid hopes drove the price a further 74p. or 38 per cent. higher to 26p. Nomura, the Japanese securities house, snapped up three million shares last week and now holds about 10 per cent.

On-Line continues to go from strength to strength, with the price soaring 16p to 454p. The company knows of no reason for the rise. But Michael Hodges, chairman and managing director, has sold 50,000 shares at 30p. Clem Cham-bers, a director, has also unloaded a further 100,000 shares at prices ranging from 30p to 33p. They say the disposquidity. On Monday another director. David Crump, bought 2,500 shares at 25p.

Environmental Property Services, the building services support specialist, held steady at 84p. Teather & Greenwood, the broker, says the shares are

a "buy". GILT-EDGED: Falls stretched to more than El at the longer end as investors began switching out of the London bond market and into Europe. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 51p to £118.73 as the number of contracts completed stretched to 30,000. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent fell £1.46 to £149.15, while in shorts, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 shed 19p at £107.72.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares were lower at midday, with the Dow Jones industrial average off 82.13 points at 9.537.76, just above its session low. However, strength Walt Disney and Eastman Kodak helped the Dow to outperform the S&P 500 index.

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Retailing a sorry story

over, the whole of Arjo is now worth less than £1 billion.

paper division, and the mer-

chanting side, are attractive.

But stood against most other

businesses the weakness,

even in Arjo's stronger ele-

Arjo has been on the share-

The special, fine and coated

EVEN a casual observer of high street habits will notice that the British shopper has developed a decided taste for bargains. But the tendency is now confirmed by the pattern beginning to emerge from the Christmas trading statements so far issued by retailers.

This does not just mean that discounters such as Matalan have done well, it also explains why outlets such as Next have achieved sales well above the average. They have persuaded customers that they offer genuine value for money. Kingfisher has also benefited with its Woolworths and Superdrug subsidiaries on the receiving end of good like for like sales growth over Christmas. They outshone stablemates Cornet and B&Q.

Signet also had a good Christmas, but for a different reason. Its business is now mainly in the US, where customers are spending as enthusiastically as ever. So what of the blood-bath talked of by Sir Richard Greenbury, the M&S chairman? In light of the good news from Matalan et al., it is tempting to conclude that the fuss made about poor sales in the runup to the festive season was hot air. But this would be a mistake. We have seen only a small proportion of the retailers issue their trading statements. Moreover, overview evidence from the British Retail Consortium points to a flat December and a drop in cumulative three-month sales.

In other words, the worst is yet to come. The signs are that most of the department stores and the clothing chains have been through a very rough time and do not yet seen any sign of a bounce-back. Those brave enough to be interested in the retail sector should stick with the revitalised Next and a solid Kinglisher.

tions with chunky investment

capital, 100. But the shares

Having come so far, share-

holders may be inclined to hang on to see if the reshuffle

brings trade or financial buy-

ers out of the woodwork. But

paper is in danger of joining

food production and textiles

have not responded.

Arjo Wiggins

KEN MINTON may protest the opposite, but the management and divisional reshuffle effected yesterday by the chair-man of Arjo Wiggins Apple-ton, the paper group, looks like the precursor to a break up. Shareholders will certainly hope it is.

The three-way reclassifica-tion of Arjo's assets makes some sense because buyers can now clearly see what they are letting themselves in for. Unfortunately, the prices they will be prepared to pay could suffer accordingly.

The Arjo unit in carbonless

paper (used for credit card receipts) and thermal paper (oldstyle fax paper) looks particu-larly unappetising. Hopes last year that that this might have been sold for £600 million now look seriously optimistic. Both are commodity suppliers

on the corporate slagheap. holder value crusade for some Look for an exit. time. It has backed good inten-DISENCHANTED SHAREHOLDER VALUE 4500

Ellis & Everard

in declining markets. More-

ELLIS & Everard is in scarcely a better position than Arjo... Alongside most other chemicals companies, and mostother firms that find themselves caught in the commodi-ty trap, Ellis is desperately trying to discover more profitable markets. As part of that process Ellis bought a US pol-ymer distributor last summer called Performance Polymers. While it is still too early to pass judgment on the wisdom of that purchase, it is unsettling to see that Ellis's polymer activities in Euope are ex-periencing price deflation.

The potential in these newets looks depressinged, and depressingly to the story that has ulk chemicals.

the global economy Ellis's predicament se than it may actualistribution of chemiot the most attractive ries, but it is possible to earn a crust - especially if you have Ellis's commitment

to cost control The shares trade on about eight times prospective earnings. This may sound cheap, but for a business that will be so difficult to grow it is probably as much as any investor could hope for. If Ellis steers clear of nasties the safeish dividend yield of 6.5 per cent should support the price. But a sudden shock could be disastrous.

Ar best, hold.

Savills INVESTORS who have stuck with Savills, the property agent, may be wondering whether they have done the right thing. The stock stalled in late 1997 and then in August last year, it fell off a cliff.

short of summer peak. Savills claims it was the victim of a double whammy. On the one hand, it was harmed by a 20 per cent derating of property stocks as investors took a more pessimistic stance on the market. On the other, as a smaller company, it struggles to find favour with institutional investors who prefer the perceived solicity, and better trading li-

quidity, of big stocks.
This leaves Savills trading on a forward pe ratio of just seven. This, in turn, may prompt its largest institutional shareholder. First Pacific Davies, to consider a takeover bid. If it does, it will have to wait until April because until then it is restricted from raising its holding beyond 20 per cent. But even the accruisition speculation has failed to

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kick-start the stock price. Savills's prospects are not entirely gloomy, however. If interest rates contine to fall after last week's quarter-point are just 3 per cent on the Continent — then property could excite more investor attention. Hold the shares.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 1999

Now is the time to tear up Maastricht

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The black farce taking place in the European Commission is naturally embarrassing for Europe's political clites. coming as it does just a week after ... the launch of the single currency. However, they should move swiftly on from hand-wringing and see events in Brussels for what they are: the best possible thing to happen for Europe's future. Europe is already saddled with

two powerful, unelected, unaccountable institutions, and getting rid of one of them would be a bonus. The Commission has done its job of rubber stamping even the most outrageous fudges needed for single currency entrants to meet the Maastricht treaty. It should now he dishanded with all its power and policy making transferred to the national governments in the curo II, giving them a bit more muscle to deal with Europe's other unelected, unaccountable institu-

tion: the European Central Bank Getting rid of the Commission would be an important first step in closing Europe's democratic deficit empowering the European Parlia-

ment would be another). The second step, now that the euro is safely latinched, is for euroland governments to tear up the Maastricht which has as Charles Dumas of Louisard Street Research puts it, "dangerously Balkanised policymaking institutions".

Noting that the ECB's "excessive independence was the price for persuading German voters to give up the mark, be writes: "This mod-el of responsible central bankers morping up after naughty govern-nents—quite apair from being un-democratic—treats governments. as infantile and may thus encour-

age them to be so."

Many of us have long expected a battle to end all battles eventually to be joined between the ECB and Europe's current politicians, large-ly elected on promises to end euroscienosis and, with it, mass uneroplayment. Few of us expected the fight to be needed so soon. What has changed is the percep-

tion of prospects for the euroland economies. Prospects had looked relatively bright in the months leading up to the euro's faunch. but the latest news is ommous. We heard yesterday that German in-dustrial output fell by 2.3 per cent in November, far larger than the 0.7 per cent fall analysis had ex-pected. Industry orders fell by 1.5 per cent in November.

Analysis now believe that Ger man GDP may actually have fallen in the fourth quarter (arguably weaker than Britain), suggesting that the official forecast of 2 per cent growth in 1999 is too optimistic and tending to back the DIW institute that last week cut its forecast for this year from 2.1 per cent to L4 per cent.



most alarming in euroland, but things are not too bright elsewhere. A Reuters survey yesterday found that manufacturing activity in the II eurozone countries declined in December for the third month in a row. At the same time, inflation is low and falling.

The answer is clear: euroland interest rates are too high and they need to be cut soon. Yet the ECB has said that rates will remain at 3 per cent for the foreseeable future.

In addition, fiscal policy is far too right for an environment which is close to being deflationary. Because of Maastricht and the Stability and Growth Pact, policy is geared towards balanced budgets, implying a tightening of curoland's structural deficit by 0.3 per cent both this year and next.

Despite the fact that monetary

and fiscal policy are ridiculously tight, given clear signs of an economic slowdown in euroland, politicians have still not broken rank. Euroland's medium-term fiscal plans, released before February's Ecofin council meeting, showed a continuing commitment to reduce deficits further.

Even more worrying for Europe's prospects was the new year warning by Heiner Flassbeck, one of Europe's most prominent proponents of demand management. that slower growth should not be an excuse for deficit spending. So much for the return of Keynesianism to Europe. (Britain stands as an honourable exception, aggressively cutting interest rates and loosening control of public spending to allow automatic stabilisers to work at exactly the right point in

We must presume that Herr Flassbeck was trying to act the fislaunched, but it cannot be possible for the man who is, after all, the former chief economist of the DIW institute to go on advocating tight fiscal policies. If he is, Germany and others in euroland have zero hope of cutting unemployment and Europe has an even more serious deficit in political leadership than it does in democracy.

the cycle.)

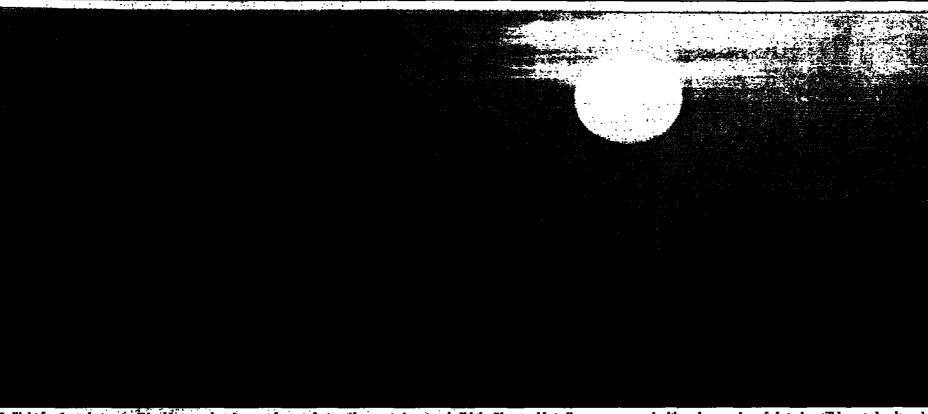
Given the world's need for a new growth locomotive, we must all hope that euroland's politicians

abandon the Stability and Growth Pact and frighten the ECB - by threatening a dramatic fiscal loosening - into giving its tacit approval and refrain from raising rates and so negate the helpful effects of

higher spending.
It is the simplest good sense that slow growth and rising unemployment busts deficit limits even more surely than socialist tax and spend. Spain, on the back of a period of strong growth, is headed for a balanced budget with no need for any further fiscal restraint.

Europe's route map to prosperity is blindingly, idiotically obvi-ous. With low inflation, a popular (with international investors) new currency and relatively low budget deficits, there are simply no arguments against reflation and, boy, it is needed after the years of premonetary union restraint.

The prize of growth and jobs is long overdue for a Europe imprisoned by the drive towards monetary union. It would be a tragedy if Europe's politicians are so trapped in the habit of repressing growth that they are unable to seize it.



Twilight for the twin towers. Wembley may lose its most famous feature if current plans to rebuild the 76-year-old stadium are approved, although a number of obstacles still have to be cleared

whisker of insolvency. On the other is Enic, a young, aggressive business, backed by a secretive billionaire, whose share price and credibility has been under pressure in recent months. In the middle is the Football Association, a sport-ing body riddled with turnsoil. within an figur of the end of a And at issue is the redevelop- matrix is almost impossible. ment of the most famous football stadium in the world and the chance of England hosting

the World Cup in 2006. The battle over the future of Wembley Stadium has been raging for more two and ahalf years and was coming close to a conclusion, of sorts, before Enics intervention last week. Few believe that the investment group will succeed if it goes forward with its 412%p a share bid for Wembley, the owner of the famous stadium. despite Wembley shares being at only 2880 before this latest twist in the saga. However, Enics emergence has shown that there are splits in the board of Wembley as well as massive question marks over the proposed £320 million redevelopment of the so-called 'venue of legends".

No one doubts that Wembley needs rebuilding. The stadium is 76 years old. Its amenities are creaking. The seats are badly spaced and many do not have backs. The pillars bolding up the roof spoil the sight lines for thousands of fans. The toilet facilities are largely housed in make-shift cahins. Transport to the stadium is difficult. To leave

one side is Wembley electrome within a company that recently came at 'venue of legends'

The stadium's parent company - also called Wembley - expanded by buying the site around the stadium, which includes car.parks, the Wembley Arena indoor complex and 43

acres of derelict land. It also bought greyhound tracks in the UK and the US, a gaming business in Rhode Island and the Keith Prowse corporate hospitality business. Overambition meant the company ran into financial difficulties in the early 1990s. Wembley underwent a financial reconstruction which was completed in 1997. The rescue brought many different proposals out of the woodwork, including an offer from Arsenal, the Premiership football team.

which is having problems expanding its own stadium.
There were dark mutterings about building another national stadium, with venues as diverse as King's Cross, Birming-ham and Bradford mentioned. There was even talk of the FA leasing Twickenham for England football games, though both the Rugby Football Union and the slocal council soon quashed this speculation. Last April a deal was struck."

Jason Nissé reports on the site, the pitch has to be moved slightly to the north. As the towbattle to fund the future of football's national stadium

in principle, with the Sports Council and the Football Asso-ciation to sell the stadium. This morning the agreement will be signed. Essentially the English National Stadium Development Company (ENSDC), a joint venture between the Council and the FA, will pay £103 million for Wembley and then spend more than £200 million redeveloping it into, in their words, "the best stadium in the world". The redevelopment is the centrepiece of the FA's bid to bring the World Cup to England in 2006, a bid that faces stiff competition from Germany and South Africa and has been hit by the resignation of Gra-ham Kelly, the FA chief executive, and Keith Wiseman, its chairman, over a loan scandal.

This grand plan is to be backed by £120 million from the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the largest award given for a single project. Not surprisingly it has its opponents.

tioned the ability of a quango and a sporting association, nei-ther of which have an unblemished record on running commercial ventures, to run a giant

stadium. They point to the cost of the project. One quantity surveyor, who did not want to be named because he is still hoping to be hired on the project. said: "Sunderland built the 40,000-seat Stadium of Light tor only £20 million. Even Newcastle United's Castle Leazes project was only going to cost £65 million. How can you spend £200 million building an 80,000-seat stadium?"

then there are questions about the development plans, which the ENSDC has yet to submit to the local council, the London Borough of Brent. For a start there was a big row when it emerged that the architects proposed knocking down the famous twin towers at the front of the stadium. It seems

ers are made of concrete and so cannot be moved they would

have to be knocked down. And then it emerged that Brent Council is opposed to just redeveloping the stadium without a project to revitalise the whole Wembley site. This would involve new roads and better links to the Underground and rail services, issues that all cost money.

Then there are worries about whether it is right that National Lottery grant money should be used to buy the stadi um, given that the cash, minus some tax and fees for merchant bankers, will then be handed out to Wembley shareholders. Lottery money is not supposed to go to profit-making ventures.

However, the most crucial objectors to the £103 million stadium sale are three nonexecutive directors of Wembley - Jarvis Astaire, one of the Roger Brooke, the chairman of Candover, the venture capital-ist, and Peter Mead, chairman of Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising group. Their unhappiness was one of the reasons

why the deal with ENSDC was not signed until yesterday and why Enic became involved.

Enic - a company founded by Joe Lewis, the Bahamasbased billionaire, and which has interests in five European football clubs including Glasgow Rangers - claims that it was invited to put forward a proposal. It is unhappy that its interest leaked out, but then it should be used to that in football. Last year supposed secret talks between Enic and Alan Sugar, chairman of Totten ham Hotspur, to buy his stake in the Premier League club magically became common knowledge without either side

claiming to have said anything. The deal cratered. However. Enic's offer faces many problems. It is offering 200p in cash - 20p a share more than shareholders would receive in the handout from the ENSDC deal - plus 2184p in Enic shares. However, Enic shares have lost nearly 60 per cent of their value in the past year, largely because of a legal battle with which had 80 per cent of the South African market. UEFA, the European football

governing body, and so its paper is not a strong currency in the City at the moment. Given that the deal with ENSDC has now been signed, Enic's approach may have come too late. But it is still not clear how ENSDC is going to be able to raise the extra £200 million that it needs to complete its ambitious plans to redevelop Wernbley Stadium. This may give Enic an opportunity to still be involved. The "venue of legends" a day. He's in good shape." is fast turning into a quagmire

Unassuming Afrikaner has much to offer South Africa

ven as photographs of a smiling Johann Rupert rolled off the presses in London yesterday. the man himself was about as far from the limelight as one could get. Overnight, the South African millionaire had boarded the company jet - a well-travelled Falcon - and flown back to Cape Town, where a car was waiting to whisk him to the seaside holiday resort of Hermanus, an hour or so up the coast.

A call to his London office was patched through by satellite to his holiday home - to the kitchen, judging by the clattering of pots and pans where Rupert, 48, was enjoying the last few days of the school holidays with his wife, Gaynor, and their teenage children, Caroline, Hanneli and Anton. We chatted courteously, about tobacco empires, luxury goods, and apartheid, and Afrikaner fieldoms, before Rupert asked to be excused; his

golfing friends were waiting. Rupert had much on which to reflect as he teed-off in the Cape sunshine. Barely hours earlier, he had cemented a deal that would once have been considered unimaginable the £15 billion merger of Rothmans International and British American Tobacco. How far things had come since the late 1940s, when his father, Anton, won the South African distribution rights to the premier Rothmans brands, Pall Mall and Consulate. Few back then gave the elder Rupert much of a hope against BAT's subsidiary. United Tobacco,

Rupert keeps in close touch with his father, now 82, who continues to live in Stellenbosch. the Afrikaans town in the Cape winelands which became the seat of the family tobacco empire, Rembrandt. The deal has come as an immense source of pride to him. "We have a fantastic relationship, in the sense that I speak to him daily, and it is wonderful to have a wise sounding-board. He still goes to the office, and walks a couple of miles The younger Rupert spends

much of his time in the UK

From Mr A. G. Phillips

Sir, Cut-throat competition is

blamed for BA's current

woes (report and Tempus,

January 7). Competition is

widely believed to be in the

best interests of the consum-

er, though it is difficult to see

how, even in the high-tech

Air fares are sky-high, there

is congestion both within airports and in the airspace

world of aviation.

Airlines, competition and the rival

attractions of video-conferencing

and have no intention of upping sticks. They are of that generation of businessmen who challenged apartheid in its day, and who now feel they have some-thing to offer the "new" South Africa, even if their advice is not always welcome. Rupert says: "Having been

and Switzerland, where Rem-

brandt's parent company.

ont's interests are spread far

and wide - from the Vendome luxury goods business to Neth-

old, the pay-TV business that

However, his roots remain

firmly in South African soil. He clocks up 500 hours a year in the

Rembrandt jet - "my father's

Falcon", as he calls it - yet has

South Africa's interests at heart.

He has a house at Somerset

West, looking across the Cape Flats towards Table Mountain.

His brother, Anthony, is in the

wine business. His sister, also

The Ruperts, as Afrikaners

can trace their heritage to 1662,

Hanneli, is a mezzo soprano.

was sold to Canal Plus.

against the previous Government, we are in a position to ive some advice. The joke is in the past, when I was against racism. I was called a communist, and now that I am against communism, I am called a racist. I'm close to these guys, and if I can't tell them, who can?"

Poignantly, the week has brought both triumph and sadness — with the death of Gavin Relly, former chairman of Anglo American. He died on Sunday, aged 73 — in Hermanus, as it happens — on the eve of the BAT announcement. Anton Rupert accompa-nied Relly on his historic visit to Zambia in 1985, when a South African contingent infuriated Pretoria by opening talks with the then-banned African National Congress. The two families have been close for years.

Johann Rupert will take a non-executive seat on the BAT board, but is anxious not to steal the limelight from Martin Broughton, BAT's chairman. Yet Rupert is every bit the modern businessman, as events this week affirm. And the Falcon jet still has some miles left in it.

JON ASHWORTH

waste of resources, energy and

potential shareholders' profit.

serves, more and more firms

are discovering the benefits of

video-conferencing. Most busi-

ness meetings are about ex-

So why travel at the speed of

sound to do so when you can, at far less cost, do so at the speed of light?

ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS.

changing ideas.

Yours faithfully,

32 Upper Street.

Wiltshire SP2 8LY.

But, as Tempus wisely ob-

Rank insider

THE two credible outside candidates make up their made. He initially to replace Andrew "a smile and a tried to play down speculation about profit warning. Teare at Rank are. Rank by claiming he did not want to out of the frame, leaving the field open for Douglas Yates, the obvious internal choice. Ken Hanna, who unbundled Dal-

gety, yesterday joined Compass Partners, a venture capital outfit set up by John Clark, former chief executive at BET, and a couple of bankers. Hanna was favourite to become Rank's chief executive but it seems he has tired of the directors' inability to



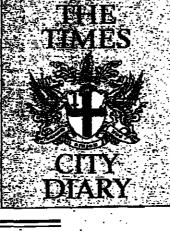
"Blues section? Have a look in

spend his life breaking things up. Now he is on to make a packet picking up the pieces at Compass after other corporate break-ups. Coincidentally, I hear that the second outside candidate. Claes Hult-

man of Wembley, has been told by Rank that he will not be getting the job. There is still no sign of that bid that former manager John Garren was definitely — repeat definitely — going to make before Christmas, I see. So expect Yates, acting chief executive to be anointed in due course. Whether this will be enough to mollithe institutions and restore the

Rank fortunes remains to be seen.

THE latest sightings of Nicola, the... foul-mouthed eight-year-old, and her advice to the British Airways pilot arrive from as far afield as Air Europe : 15 years ago, the Ministry of Defence and the junior section of a small library in rural Cheshire, where her note was swiftly removed from view. I think we have established that it does not date from a British Airways cockpit last week I ring my BA source, who is still unrepentant. It. might be a copy of a previous document that was thrust forward to the . flight deck," he says. Enough.



So playful

UNEXPECTED signs of a sense of humour from Jacques Attali, polymath and former head of the European Central Bank until expensive tastes led to his downfall. His play about Charles V, the loth-century Holy Roman Emperor, opens in Paris today and there is a gala performance on January 18.

To the latter he has invited Mikhail Gorbachev and Baroness Thatcher and spouse, who are more likely to be found on the far side of the moon come curtain-up, I would have thought. It is, after all, hard to see the Iron Lady comprehending, let alone tolerating, two hours of turgid history in French about a man who conquered most of Europe.

Still, it all adds to the advance publicity, which our playwright has en-sured will be entirely positive. The critics are denied a look at the masterwork until well after the gala night.

Bob a job

THE newspaper advertisment yester-day for a lawyer to earn £1 million, sorry, "to £1 million-plus", which covers a wide range, attracted plenty of publicity for the headhunter in-volved, QD Legal. Strangely, inquir-ies show there is no such job. An executive at the headhunter admit-

ted there is no one position guaranteeing that salary. The "immensely profitable" US law firm involved hopes to fill a number, and one has the "poten-tial" to earn such a high sum — assuming the ability to bring in £3 million to £4 million of new business.

Still, the ad will have brought in the names of a few highly-paid lawyers who might be interested in changing jobs. You never know when these might come in handy.

AN AMERICAN multimillionaire with two Internet company start-ups behind him has quit to spare his lat-est, USWeb/CKS Corporation, from "public relations complications". As well he might. Joe Firmage, 28. be-lieves advanced technology was handed to us by aliens. So he is off to find them. Firmage, like most Americans. claims he has already met one. There's a bigger picture out there than just tomorrow's stock price."

Boo hoo

of ambitions.

ELSEWHERE in far-out corporate America, Yahoo, the eccentrically named provider of Internet Services. is proving remarkably uncool about a spoof site with a similar name that has emerged. YaHooka is devoted to drug chai and paraphernalia and, as you can see from the illustration below, is not unlike Yahoo's own.

The \$40 billion US corporation has already taken action against a sex site with a similar name. But the potheads, based in Oklohoma City, are proving more resilient, or possibly more difficult to spur into anything resembling action. They claim the site does not make a profit and is purely

around them and business customers waste valuable working time. Airline load factors "The name just came together," drawled a spokesman. "It wasn't a remain stubbornly below 70 per cent on average. In total, conscious decision," Like, right.

> MARTIN WALLER martin.waller@the-times.co.uk



From the President, US-Cuba Trade and Economic Council Sir, Your article "SB to barter for Cuba meningitis vaccine" (Business News, January 11) states that "American legislation prohibits trade with

Trade with Cuba

This is not true. The Helms-Burton Law permits sanctions against non-United Statesbased companies which are deemed by the United States Department of State to be us-

ing an asset within the Republic of Cuba upon which there exists a claim certified by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission in Washington

Trade between the United States and the Republic of Cuba is limited, not prohibited. Yours faithfully, JOHN S. KAVÜLICH II.

President, US-Cuba Trade and Economic Council. 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

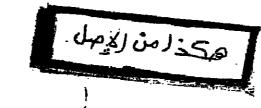
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The In and Out club at No 94 Piccadilly has moved on and one of London's great properties is now for sale, writes Rachel Kelly

£50 million buys the home, address and history

or sale: urban splendour on 4 2 speciacular scale. One of London's most historic houses, previously home to the Naval and Military Club, officially goes on the market this week for E50 million after months of speculation on its future.

The former home of Lord Palmerston, at No 94 Piccadilly. has been empty since last month when members of the club. nicknamed the "In and Out" after the prominent signs on its gateposts topped with lanterns left after 133 years. Next month they are due to walk across London en masse to new premises in St James's.

FDP Savills and Pannell Kerr Forster are advising its Kuwaiti owners on the sale of the Palladian-fronted building. The owners have investigated the possibility of turning the 50-bedroom establishment into an hotel or possibly a foreign embassy, and have also re-ceived expressions of interest from several wealthy foreigners who wish to turn the building back into a private house.

When it reverts to private use the house will be one of the capital's finest properties, complete with ornate ballroom and a wide enclosed courtyard at the back with a fountain and plane trees, beneath which A.E.W. Mason began writing The Four Feathers.

Once called Egremont House, the property was built for the 1st Lord Egremont and was designed



by Matthew Brettingham between 1756 and 1760. It was later occupied by the Duke of Cambridge, and from 1855 to 1865 it was home to Lord Palmerston.
The In and Out club moved in on a long lease in 1866.

As well as boasting a private staircase for Palmerston's spies, it

was also the scene of an attack on Queen Victoria by a madman brandishing a stick. It has housed such illustrious men as Scott of the Antarctic and Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouts. The Admiral of the Fleet the Marquess of Milford Haven and the

grandfather of the club's presi-

dent, the Duke of Edinburgh, died

on the premises in 1921. The Grade I listed building is said to be frequented by the ghost of Major W.H. Braddell, wearing his greatcoat. He miraculously survived when a German bomb killed everyone else in the club's

A spokesman for FPD Savills refused to comment on the sale, but it is believed to include other property, including the freehold of several nearby shops, and the lease of three houses in Half Moon Street that were previously used as bed-rooms by the club. There are thought to be at least 50 bedrooms

known as the In and Out club. The Kuwaiti owners have decided to sell the former home of Lord

Urban splendour. this historic house

has been home

since 1866 to the

Naval and Military Club —

Palmerston, which has 50 bedrooms, a hallroom and a library

Photograph: James Morgan

in the main house, plus a library and the magnificent panelled Oc-

tagon room.

The In and Out club has now moved to new premises at 4 St James's Square, once home to Lady Astor, Britain's first sitting woman MP, and later this month Bonhams will be auctioning re-

maining chattels, including furni-ture, pictures, mirrors and wood-

en knick-knacks. Perhaps the only other London mansion on the marker that compares with the In and Out is No 1 Cambridge Gate, Regent's Park. The late Victorian house, with its 40 rooms and domed swimming pool that turns into a ballroom, is

unsold at £15 million.

Avril Butt of De Groot Collis. which is handling the sale, is confident that the asking price will be met because this end of the market is "more recession-proof". Palace seekers prepared to venture be-youd the metropolis could consider Luton Hoo, a stately home on a huge 1,500-acre Bedfordshire estate that housed the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on their honeymoon, and was also used in the hit British film Four Weddings and a Funeral

The estate includes a Grade I listed mansion, 47 houses and cottages, a lake and parkland. The property was for sale for £25 milion more than a year ago and has still not found a buyer. Now the main house, five cottages and 500 acres are for sale for £10 million.

Others could consider Mentmore Towers in Buckinghamshire, on the market since November 1997. A Victorian 60-bedroom mansion that once belonged to Lord Rosebery, the house is ac-companied by 80 acres of wood-

Houses? Not in my neck of the woods

bridgeshire is likely to grow at 314 times the national average over the next 20 or so years. A report by the Office for National Statistics predicts that the number of people living in the county will rise by 24.6 per cent by 2021 to 678,600 — a jump of 134,000. The national average is expected to be 6.9 per cent over that period.

But the popularity of Cambridgeshire is creating some problems. The most serious is the urgent need for new housing, while a complete overhaul of the road network and public transport system is vital.

economic Cambridge's boom and its ability to auract the world's leading high-tech companies — such as Microsoft — is causing a bureau-cratic headache for planners keen to preserve the region's past yet faced with the reality of needing more than 100.000 extra homes.

Even at this stage there is a dispute over the number of homes required: a central government figure puts it at 122,500 by 2016 compared with the local authority projection of 96.500. This, coupled with the huge budget required to create a viable transport network linking proposed new "settlements" in the county. will be the subject of a major public planning inquiry to be held at Ely next month. It will allow local councils, housing advisers — including the House-Builders Federation (HBF) — and individual developers to make their views known to a panel of government-appointed experts.

Christopher Carey, a partner of the East Anglian proper-ty consultants Bidwells, says: "Our greatest problem is creating viable new country settlements. Ten years ago, there

Cambridgeshire needs more homes, but it does not want to destroy its green belt. Diana Wildman reports

was an agreement in principle between the local authorities and a consortium of developers to build a 3,000-home project called Cambourne eight miles west of Cambridge, complete with 750,000 sq ft of commercial space, a

school, pubs and shops. "Nothing has happened because there is an impasse between the local authority and the housebuilders. Under the Section 106 agree-

ment, the developers have agreed to provide certain forms of transport including some roads and cycle tracks, but not be-fore they start building. The local authority wants the roads in place beforehand. The developers naturally

want to start building before commit-

ting themselves." problem, Mr Carey says, is transport. "This Government decided to cancel a large number of new road projects which saved billions of pounds. The consequence for Cambridgeshire is to create new villages well away from the city. There has to be a reasonable transport system and now there is no funding

available. to build on parts of the Fens but it will take so long to reach Cambridge because of the lack of decent transport facilities

there. It is impractical." David Henry, head of planning at Savills's Cambridge office, says there must be a fresh approach towards new village plans within the green belt. The green belt will have to be violated as we simply have to out all this housing some-

that no one will want to move

where," he says. "Our local papers are full of these problems. Cambridge commuter traffic is so dreadful that more and more people, as they trade up, want to move into the city or live belt will be in the more accessibie suburbs where, over the past two

years, a five-bed-

home set in a cou-

ple of acres has ris-

en from E400,000

to £500,000," he

buyers, however,

are waiting longer

and want either a

regional planners. "The issue

facing planners as recom-

mended by the Government is to take economic growth and

the interest of stakeholders

into account," he says. "This

detached

"First-time

have to put housing

violated,we

somewhere

two-bedroom flat or house. We have 20,000 students to accommodate during term-time and a large amount of inner-city purchases are by investors."

Marc Cranfield-Adams, a spokesman for HBF, believes mendation for an extra 122,500 homes is more realistic than the number suggested by the

"The local authority is keen

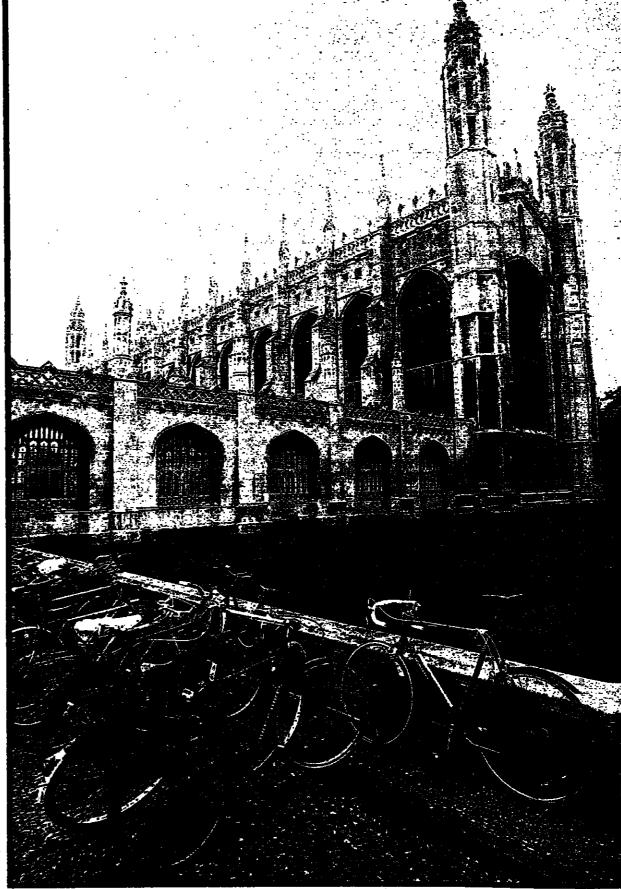
all has implications, in particular for Cambridge's green belt boundaries, and the House-Builders' Federation will draw attention to the need for an examination of the green belt and the possibility of other forms of development."

Mr Carey believes that the two fundamental and inescapable issues are an inflexible bureaucracy and the huge amount of funding required to solve the transport and housing problems.
On one hand, the Govern-

brownfield sites for housing. There are certain areas within Cambridge which are ideal for residential use, such as the old railway sidings in Chesterton in the northeast suburbs. This is where people want to live and environmentally it is an excellent option. But the local authority guidelines and those of the Government, although both Labour, differ. It is all very well for the Government to state that we must increase the housing stock by one quarter but the council doesn't necessarily want to grant a change in planning use on brownfield sites.

"Then there is the requirement for housebuilders to include social housing - up to 25 per cent on any urban scheme. Builders don't like this restraint, especially on a low-density scheme, so a degree of realism simply has to be introduced."

Political inlighting must stop, transport and housing must be planned in tandem and developers and the local authority must be more flexible. If this does not happen, it is unlikely that the Government's housing goal for Cambridgeshire by 2016 -- and the continuing international investment in the region — will



Price of success: bicycles are fine if you live in town, but Cambridge's commuter traffic is a headache for council planners

Why your pet should not be seen or heard

WE MAY be a nation of animal lovers. but when it comes to selling a house, it's often a different story. Dogs on the loose, cat litter trays. hamsters in bedrooms. not to mention more exotic pets, can put potential buyers and estate agents off your

Many agents have tales of animal encounters. Nigel Steele, at Strutt & Parker in Norwich, has been bitten four times by dogs while viewing houses, with the last incident costing him a pair of trousers. while John Husband, at Humberts, just managed to dodge a potentially sticky incident with a spitting llama.

Mike Dunning, at Lane Fox in Winchester, still recalls an encounter with a parrot residing in a property he was selling. "The parrot insisted on screeching obscenities at visitors from its perch as they came through the front door. So we covered its cage with a thick duvet and managed to quieten it down," he says. We all know that animals, whether

they be cats, dogs, guinea-pigs or parrots.

form part of the family. But over-affec-

mals, before a viewing."

tionate pets, happily barking and jumping up at visitors, can scare people and could put off a potential purchaser. Dogs should be banished to the ken-

nel, baskets should be tidied up or away and cats should be removed from the sofa and beds. For many there's nothing worse than a faint waft of dog blankets. gnawed bones or soggy cat litter." Andrew Dewar, at Curchods, says:

"However friendly your pets, hide them away for viewing because you simply do not know what lears, allergies and dislikes prospective purchasers may have. It's not just the animals that can be detrimental to a sale, it's the aftermath, including smells, dog hairs and the mess they make in the garden. Make sure you remove all of the above, as well as the ani-

Michael Bedford, at Bedfords in Burnham Market, recalls clients trying to self their West Norfolk home: "People were looking round the property and kept complaining about the dogs. I went round for a visit, and it was like having two ponies

following you around. It was very intimi-dating. Eventually I told the vendors to lock their dogs away, and they sold the house shortly afterwards.

Many people coming out of London do not have large dogs so are naturally wary of them. It is better to put the animals in another room, and when you get to it, ask the viewers if they mind dogs."

THE BRIEFCASE of Conrad Payne, at Cluttons Daniel Smith in Tunbridge Wells, recently came off worse in an encounter with a young pup. Luckily the incident occurred when he was valuing the

More exotic pets can also pose problems. James Bailey, at Douglas & Gordon in Fulham, recalls a client who owned a pet piranha, which he led on live lobster: "As you can imagine, this did lit-tle to intpress applicants viewing the house, and eventually we had to co-ordinate feeding times so that they didn't coincide with viewings."

A python held up the proceedings for

Hamptons International in Fulham last year. The first time the buyer viewed the tlat, the snake was in a cage and he particularly said that he hated reptiles.

At the second viewing, the party was halfway round the house when they suddenly noticed that the snake was not in his cage. The buyer left in an instant. Just before he was about to exchange he made the negotiator go round to the flat with him to check that the snake was not

But imagine buying a house complete with an unruly pet. A property for sale, with a resident Vietnamese pot-bellied pig posed something of a problem for Mr Steele. The pig had taken over the vendors lives completely, and they had decided that selling up was the only way to get away from their pet.

It was a pretty house, but most people ran a mile," Mr Steele says. "Someone did actually buy, but I am not sure how long the pig lasted."

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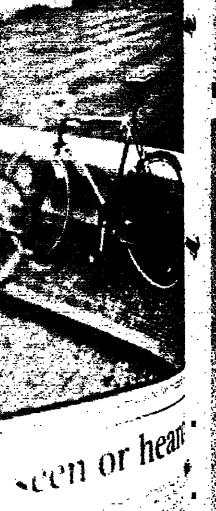
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Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith.

Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Jus-

Ordinary contractual principles

did not determine the question whether parties had concluded an

agreement for ancillary relief in di-

If there was a dispute as to

whether negotiations led to an ac-

cord abbreviating ancillary relief

proceedings, the court had a discre-

tion in determining whether an ac-

a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by Harry Costas Xydhi-

as from the dismissal by of Judge

Hamilton on November 5, 1997 in

Birmingham County Court, of his

appeal against the order of District Judge Hargreaves on November

25, 1996, and holding that pre-trial

negotiations between the husband and his wife, Chrystalla Xydhias.

amounted to an agreement for the purposes of an abbreviated ancil-

iary relief hearing under section 23 of the Matrimonial Causes Act

vorce in 1994 and applied for ancil

lary relief. Lengthy and detailed pre-trial negotiations took place

shortly before the hearing and the

amount of the lump sum and the

number of instalments appeared to

The Court of Appeal so stated in

tice Munmery

vorce proceedings.

cord had been reached.

Judgment December 21]

Non-party's entitlement to papers Contract not apt in divorce deal

Services Ltd v Liverpool and London Steamship Protection and indemnity Association Ltd and Others (FAI General Insurance Company Ltd

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss. Lord Justice Potter and Sir Patrick

Uudement December 21!

A non-party to an action was entiried to inspect and make copies of written opening submissions or skeleton arguments to which reference was made by the judge at trial, A non-party was not entitled to inspect documents referred to in a witness statement or the docu-

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in allowing in part an appeal brought by FAI General Insurance Company Ltd against the refusal by Mr Justice Timothy Walker of their applicaons to inspect and/or take co of various documents referred to in open court and taken as read in the course of a trial in which FAI were not a party.

Mr Brian Leveson, QC and Miss Tina Cook for FAI: Mr Colin Edelman, QC and Mr David Joseph for Godfrey Merren Robertn Ltd (GMR): Miss Helen Davies for Ocean Marine Mutual Proection and Indemnity Association

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that FAI were currently defendants in proceedings brought by Ocean Marine Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association Ltd and Ocean Marine Mutual Insurance Association Europe OV (OMM) in which OMM sought recovery of arance made between OMM and

FAI had purported to avoid the contracts of reinsurance for misrepresentation/non-disclosure and defend upon those grounds. The convia a chain of brokers in London and Australia. The same chain of brokers was involved in placing a number of reinsurance contracts which were the subject matter of the trial before Mr Justice Timothy Walker in the present action.

The present action centred on the avoidance of reinsurance contracts by the plaintiffs. Gio Personal Investment Services Ltd of the reinsured, Liverpool and London Steamship Protection and Indemni-

The placements of those con-tracts was broadly contemporaneous with those in the OMM action. The brokers were the same two par-

Prior to trial, Gio and Liverpool and London settled. Liverpool and London in turn settled their third party proceedings against the first,

At the trial, the effective plaintiff was GMR pursuing claims for in-demnity and/or damages against the sub-brokers, Chapman & Co. Mr Jonathan Chapman and GAK

(Reinsurance) Party Ltd. On June 2, 1998 short opening speeches were made by Mr Edelman, QC, for GMR and Mr Tomlinson, QC, for GAK, Mr Edelman made it clear that he had a written opening which he placed before the judge saying that he did not wish to develop it that day but preferred the judge to read it in conjunction with a lengthy opening statement for GAK, following which he would deal with any of the judge's queries. He then elaborated on the issues as they emerged from the opening and Mr Tomlinson did

The judge indicated that he would spend the next few days reading indicating that he would be completed by June 8, when the parties re-attended court.

By June 8, GMR and GAK had settled and GMR proceeded against Chapman and Co and Mr napman who did not appear.

On June 2, prior to the openings. FAI's solicitors had written GMR's solicitors requesting that they make available copies of the skeleton arguments lodged by counsel, the trial bundles and daily transcripts as they became availa-ble, all against FAI's undertaking to pay reasonable charges.

GMR did not comply and on

June 8 representations were made to the judge on FAI's behalf. The priate for FAI to intervene without

On June 10. Mr. Justice Walker vered a judgment in respect of the claims against Chapman and Co and Mr Chapman which effectively concluded the litigation.

Mr Leveson. QC. who now ap-peared for FAI, immediately ap-plied to inspect and take copies of the skeleton arguments, trial bundles, reading list submitted by the parties and lists of witnesses submitted to the judge after the trial

FAI put their case on the basis of dement as any member of the public although they did not conceal their underlying purpose motivating their application.

Mr Justice Walker had rejected

the application saying that while he considered that the court had inherent jurisdiction to make the order sought, in the exercise of his dis-

On the appeal, FAI limited the order they sought to obtaining copies of documents referred to in the witness statements, any written opening skeleton arguments and either specifically requested to read or which was included in any readFAI as a non-party for access to documents used or referred to in evidence in the course of trial was based upon the provisions of Order 38, rule 2A of the Rules of the Supreme Court, it seemed to his Lordship to be doomed to failure for two reasons.

First, on their plain words, they imposed upon the court a power in respect of witness statements only and did not extend to cover documents referred to in those state-

Second, nothing in the history or context of the introduction of the rule led one to suppose that the Rules Committee intended thereby to introduce a provision which would enable a third party to the litigation to obtain access to inter partes documents which had previously, unless by agreement with the parties, been unavailable to any member of the public whether or not he or she attended court to hear the oral evidence of the wit-

The purpose of rule 2A focused on increasing the efficiency of the inter partes process from a proce-dural point of view. The rule sought to accelarate the disclosure of the parties evidence as between es, however, it was not inter partes halance of advantage in the litigation or to prejudice the rights of the litigating parties out-So far as the written openings.

skeleton arguments and the docu-ments referred to therein were concerned, Mr Leveson put his case on very broad grounds, recognising that, in seeking an order other than under Order 38, rule 2A, he had to rely on the inherent jurisdiction of the court to regulate its own

In his Lordship's judement, so far as the opening, or other, speech-es of counsel were concerned, while a member of the public attending court would have the benefit of hearing them and be free to report them, there was no provision or requirement for the taking of a record for the benefit of the public No doubt that was because, for the purposes of any subsequent ap-peal, it was the evidence before the iudge and his stated reasons which were essential to the validity of his

So far as concerned documents which formed part of the evidence or court bundles, there had historically been no right, and there was currently no provision, which enabled a member of the public present in court to see, examine or copy a document simply on the basis that it had been referred to in court or read by the judge.

If and in so far as it might be read out, it would enter the public domain and a member of the press or public could quote what was for purposes of further use or information depended upon his ability to obtain a copy of the document from one of the parties or by other lawful means.

There was no provision by which the court might, regardless of the wishes of the parties to the litigation, make such a document available to a member of the pub-

Not, on far as such documents were concerned, did his Lordship consider that any recent development in court procedures justified the court contemplating such an exercise under its inherent jurisdic-

On the other hand, the arguments for such an exercise in respect of the written submissions of counsel or skeleton arguments which were used as a substitute for oral submissions seemed to his Lordship to be a good deal strong-

In exercising his discretion, Mr Justice Walker seemed to have re-garded the particular interest and purpose of FAI in seeking to obtain movies of counsel's written submissions, namely to obtain a full understanding of the issues and to identify the documents going to those issues as the possible subject for subpoena in parallel lingation. as a reason to refuse access which he might otherwise have been disposed to grant to a differently motivated member of the public.

Yet, quite anart from the interest the public for this purpose, most people who attended a trial whe they were not parties to it or directly interested in the outcome did so in furtherance of some special interest, whether for the purposes of education, critique or research, or by reason of membership of a pres-sure group, or for some other ulterior but legitimate motive. It did not seem to his Lordship that the purpose of FA1 in the case was in any

In his Lordship's view, the appropriate judicial approach to such an application in a complicated case was to regard any member of the public who for legitimate reasons applied for a copy of counsel's written opening or skeleton argu-ment, when it had been accepted by the judge in lieu of an oral open-

ing, as prima facie entitled to it. The appeal would be allowed to nt of ordering FAI and OMM be entitled to inspect and make copies of the written opening submissions or skeleton argu ments to which reference was made by the judge at trial.

Sir Patrick Russell and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss agreed. Solicitors: Clyde & Co. Guilford; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Bar-

low Lyde & Gilbert.

be agreed together with other details, although no document set-ting our the terms was signed by the parties and no agreement was reached as to how the payments

of the Solicitors Act 1974. Mr Justice Sullivan so held in

Mrs Nielsen had deposited El.2

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ders were prepared but not signed of an order. It conducted an indeby the parties.

The wife's solicitors wrote to the court requesting a short appoint-ment. But a few days before the hearing the husband sought to resile from the agreement and to vary the terms of the instalments.

The wife applied for an order that the husband show cause why an order should not be made in the terms of the agreement reached. The application was heard as a preliminary issue.

Mr Patrick Eccles, QC and Mr Edward Hess for the husband; Mr Michael Horowitz, QC and Mr Timothy Bishop for the wife. LORD JUSTICE THORPE said

that counsel for the trusband submitted that the ordinary contractual principles summarised in Pag-nan SpA v Feed Products Ltd [[1987] 2 Lloyd's Rep 601) applied. His Lordship's cardinal conclusion was that ordinary contractual principles did not determine the is-

sues in the appeal.

That was because of the fundamental distinction that an agreement for the compromise of an an-cillary relief application did not ive rise to a contract enforceable

The parties seeking to uphold a concluded agreement for the compromise of such an application could not sue for specific performance. The only way of rendering the bargain enforceable, was to convert the concluded agreement The court did not either automat-

ically or invariably grant the appli-cation to give the bargain the force

pendent assessment to enable it to discharge its stanutory function to make such orders.

It was clear that the award to an applicant for ancillary relief was al-ways fixed by the court. The payer's liability could not be ultimately fixed by compromise as in the settlement of claims in other divi-

The purpose of negotiation was not to finally determine the liability but to reduce the length and expense of the process by which the court carried out its function.

If there was a dispute as to whether the negotiations led to an accord that the process should be abbreviated, the court had a discretion in determining whether an accord had been reached.

In exercising that discretion the court should be astute to discern the antics of a litigant who, having consistently pressed for abbreviation, sought to resile and justify his. shift by reliance on some point of detail that was open for determination by the court at its abbreviated

hearing.
If the court concluded that the parties agreed to settle on terms, it might have to consider whether the terms were vitinted by a factor such as material non-disclosure or rainted by a factor within the parameters set in Edgar v Edgar 11980)) WLR 1410).

Finally, in every case the court had to exercise its independent discretionary review applying the section 25 criteria to the circum of the case and to the terms of the

_That approach particularly ap-

plied to accords intended to obviate delivery of briefs for trial. Different considerations might apply to agreements not negotiated in the shadow of an impending fixture. There were two lessons for spe-

cialist practitioners. First, to distinguish clearly between the two stages of negotia-

(i) establishing what the applicant was to receive, expressed in simple terms in heads of agreement signed by both countsel and

(ii) expressing the heads of agreement in the language of an order of the court, a task to which the parties ordinarily made little contribution. The signature of the parties to a draft consent order hardly eremed apt.

Second: it was desirable that counsel should explicitly agree whether their negotiations open or without prejudice. Ordinarily they were likely to be without prejudice and if they did not achieve a concluded agreement the aftermath was likely to be an exchange of Calderbank letters freserving the right to refer on the issue of costs to a without prejudice offer] (Calderbank v Calderbank (1976) Fam 93) and/or open corre-

On the evidence before him the district judge was right to hold that the parties had concluded a com-

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Mummery agreed. Solicitors: Blakemores, Learn-

within the rules to take into consid-

eration those cases where such a

business person had made a mini-

guidelines should be followed em-

phasised that they could be taken

into consideration, but must not be

allowed to fetter the court's discre-

tion. The guideline itself used the

In his Lordship's judgment, the

the decision letter was fully justi-

Solicitors: Gouldens: Russel

Cooke Potter & Chapman, Putney:

committee's concerns regarding each of the factors mentioned in

Rule 16 far from saying that the

mal contribution to the loss.

Discretion to make compensation grant

Regina v Law Society, Exparte Nielsen

Before Mr Justice Stillivan (Judgment December 3)

Guideline 3 in the schedule to the Solicitors Compensation Fund Rules 1995, which concerned losses for which grants would not be made, did not unlawfully fetter the discretion of the compensation fund committee of the Law Society make a grant under section 36(2)

the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judi-cial review of the refusal on June (8, 1998 of Kirsten Aagaard en's application for a grant out of the fund.

nillion into a bank account under the control of a solicitor. Charles Julian Deacon, on the strength of his undertaking that he would hold the money until completion of a transaction, and would repay it to pleted within a certain time. Mr Deacon was then fraudulent, and the money was never recovered. Mr A. Leolin Price, QC, for Mrs Nielsen: Mr David Pannick, OC. for the Law Society.

MR JUSTICE SULLIVAN said that he had no doubt that the Law Society had the power to formulate and apply general policy guide-lines, provided that they were not pplied inflexibly and without re-ard to the circumstances of a par-

His Lordship was referred to R v Law Society, Ex parte Mortgage Ex-press Ltd. ([1997] 2 All ER 348, 359-360]. That case was concerned with mortgage frauds facilitated by dishonest solicitors hence the emphasis upon the primary pur-pose of the fund being to replace money which had been taken by solicitors for their own benefit.

The court was not concerned with the question of whether the solicitor was the applicant's own so-licitor: see also R v Low Society, Ex parte Ingman Foods Oy AB [[1997] 2 Ali ER 666, 668].

In his Lordship's view, section 36(2) conferred a broad discretion on the Law Society Bearing in mind the primary purpose of the fund as described Mortgage Express and Ingman Foods, it was lawful for the Law Society to formulate guidelines which stated that in certain cases falling outside that primary purpose they would not normally make a grant if the applicant had contributed to the loss by

standard of care It was to be noted that paragraph 3(d) did not apply to the ordi-nary lay client of a solicitor seeking help with day to day proble such as divorce, house purchases and so on but to applicants who were business or professional people engaging in their business or professional activity. It was not unreasonable to expert a higher stand

word "normally".

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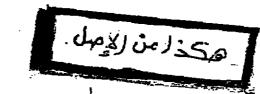
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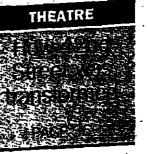




Cinders a fitfully revises at the Collise

g. PAGE 35

THE





After ten years in films, 18-year-3.5 Christina Ricci remains refreshing

cynical. Sheila Johnston reports

or many of her fans Christina Ricci will be forever Wednesday. the adorably malevolent, poker-faced nine-year-old she played in the two Addams Family films. They still identify me with her," the actress says. "That's OK — it's not like I was in *The Parent Trap*. And it made them apprehensive about approaching and talk-ing to me, which was fine. Because I don't really like people all that much.

"I hated being a kid because someone was always telling you what to do. Everyone assumes you're an idiot. The best thing about being an adult is not being conde-

scended to. "And also," adds the 18-year-old (19 next month) Ricci. who has been smoking regularly since she was 15, "I can now legally buy cigarenes in America."

That's the stuff to give the ticket-buying troops who will no doubt line up to experience Ricci's latest incursion into bad-girl territory.

Friday sees the opening of The Opposite of Ser, an acerbic comedy about a group of sexual misfits. She stars as Dedee, a trailer-trash blonde who visits her gay half-brother, seduces his lover, then persuades him that he has fathered her baby.

She is also the film's narrator, keeping up an acidtongued commentary on the convoluted plotline and pitiful dramatis personae. "I don't have a heart of gold and I don't grow one later," Dedee confides cheerfully: like Wednesday, she's the kind of baleful character with whom audiences love to identify.

Ricci was talent-spotted, aged eight, in a school pageant supplying a sardonic commen-Christmas ('all a kid wants for Christmas is a basketball, but she gets dumb presents like a partridge in a pear tree"). Her auspicious screen debut was opposite Winona Ryder and Cher in Mermaids (1990), a comedy about fraught motherdaughter relationships. followed by the two Addams Family films and the chil-

dren's ghost movie Casper. Then came a rocky patch. with duds like Gold Diggers: The Legend Of Bear Mountain. That Darn Cat and The Cemetery Club. And an actress could build quite a reputation (not to mention a bank balance) on the movies for

'ROBERT

which Ricci admirs to is a jected: Jurassie Park. Ballar & Robin, Lolita, Latte Victor en. Interview With the Varie-

pire and Romeo and Julici But finally there was 1 to 12: Storm. Ang Lee's glactri in Comedy of sexual confessional deep freeze or turned out to be that particle succes d'estime which was alle a respectable internation. box-office hit. Ricci (600, 502) applauded for her mostpoignant portrait of a car 2. ate, sexually precisions to: er. She had officiell to

⁶ I hated being a kid; it's assumed cent Calleting and you're

an idiot?

te's semi-unimate. feature Small Soldiers. So much work, so these time. Has it left Ricci hardy be herselft "Yeah, I'm Cili." she grunts, adding, alcress to the afterthought lest this formal too brusque. "than the time of might be forgiven for as the she admits to having softened from anorexia, then, as the form

voices in the Caus

ty crashed in, acquiring erroger ing curves, not all or the wanted (although she likes to describe The Conof Sex as fall above to their age"). She went through a phase of burning hereal mana digarettes and maintains a therapist on each American

mideed the power of week on. from her singular a , **of innocen**es and the bitten maturity. Thereis, age she seems formical perienced. "You mean mean was." Well. I've been in the infor jen years, I kn may be a talking about when their testers work, but not when the into it.

witter-director of The Control site of Sec. "Unit to the tough cookie, but all a weart. time she has a very term quality to her. She is ness and her impulsional pretension. Site 55 . . . courage too, she has a book





script. Asylum. about "a group of youths who feel dead when they are unable to make the n dark transition to adulthood"), but NOTE OF BUILDING also as someone who does not

suffer fools gladly. She speaks scornfully of the die komitiko time and an incree n market da dis-

"weal: producers" who made life difficult on Buffalo 66, and of unprofessional colleagues. "i prefer people who have been in this business a long time. There are certain courtesies that younger actors just don't know. I'm very comfortable with acting. And I couldn't think of anything I'd rather do: I don't have any save-theworld ideals. But certain situations are difficult, like when you hate the people you work with."

make a ton of money."

She owns her own production company, but claims to have no long-term game plan. "Yeah, well, anyone can have one, you just have to register with the Government, I don't think I would know how to be a Hollywood player. I wouldn't do something cheesy just because I was going to

13 CHT reports on growing unease about the South Bank Centre's plans

k before you demolish



Whither the Hayward Gallery and Queen Elizabeth Hall?

That possibility horthe the many distinguished groups for whem the QEH serves as an irreplaceable Lon-dien base. Many say they would be lost without it. This is deliberately provocative entenient to an orchestra se ters it would be a disas-

drahestra of the Age of En-Bank's resident orchestras. "A tragesy, "Says Val Bourne, di-restor of Dance Umbrella. the the several weeks each sur (I) ethe QEH with enthuof the colleres for contempoand come "Cultural suicide," in. American choreogra-27 Stephen Petronio, whose The at the QEH for ten years.

or smaller orchestras the other Central Lon-don venues are either Hall you both sound .55 c/a runuscule," says of this Bollardie, veteran in magarof the English Cham-No Oranestra, "and the Wigmore can only take 13 on its mattern. The OEH is terribly that of there simply is no n ter medium-size**d venue."** Elit olintemporary dance the thattem is even more urgent.

Disarra says the QEH is the

—) available space between:

the 300-seat Place Theatre and the much larger Sadler's Wells which, after its rebuilding. charges more than most groups can pay. "A whole area of contemporary dance would not survive," she says. "Take away the QEH and you take away affordable contempo rary dance." Petronio agrees "You would have top-end balket and nothing else."

As far as the merits of replacing the existing building go. opinions seem evenly divided. Many would be glad of a berter equipped and bigger stage. and especially of improved entertainment facilities for the all-important corporate sponsors. Orchestras complain, Not have commany has perfore too, that the number of seats is too low to be economically viabic. They would prefer 1,200 or even 1,500 to the present 900.

But others see nothing wrong that can't be fixed. Richard Alston, whose dance company appears annually at the QEH, says the hall is much maligned. "I'm certainly not asking for a new venue," he protests. "I have a lot of affection for it. It's not beautiful, but it's comfortable and audiences like it. It's nonsense to say they find it inhospitable."

Alston's view is supported by the half's impressive arrendance record. Dance Umbrella norched up 79 per cent paid atweek season. The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment puts. its average figure at 90 per cent. Petronio says that all his dates have sold out for as long as he can remember. "The testimony is that the audiences

go," he claims.
"The QEH is a bome for many groups." Ballardie adds.
"If they don't have a home, they will wither." Nobody denies that the South Bank is in urgent need of first aid, and most are hoping for the best, while waiting for the centre's still-embryonic plans to be fully fleshed out. But the message is that any prevarication over the new yenue will be fiercely. resisted. In that case, say all better to stick with the present one, with all its limitations, than run the risk of losing such a viral resource for good.

the HaydnFest, Christopher Rowland — formerly of the Fitzwilliam Quartet, now director of chamber music at the RNCM — was one of them. Clearly, taking all the statistics into account, this was rath-

Puffed out by the joy of sax

oung artists can move fast these days, and some performers in the final concert of the Park Lane Group's January showcase al-ready had a CD to hawk: coming in February, we were told, on the Black Box label. These were the Quartz Saxophone Quartet, former pupils at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama of John Harle, who has done so much to bring the instrument to the forefront in new British music. There they were, four freshfaced men, brilliantly demonstrated with the second men the second me

Or make the players go red in the face. This happened, inevitably, during Michael Nyman's Songs for Tony, written in memory of his late business manager, Tony Simons. Nyman's driving style suits massed saxophones well, although you wonder how long he can go on filling new bottles with his old wine (especially

strating the saxophone's abili-

ty to croon like Bing Crosby,

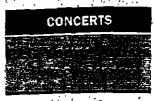
wail like a Weimar jazz band

and burble like an upset stom-

the score to The Piano). Chuntering Nymanesque riffs also featured in Cary Carpenter's mercurial suite Une Semaine de Bonté, a Quartz commission, inspired by one of Max Ernst's surreal picture novels. With four saxophones, however, a little wayward ebul-

lience went a long way.

The quartet left the best to last: Gavin Bryars's Alaric I or II, from 1989. Some Bryars pieces consist of fascinating programme notes with pallid music attached. But this was



the real McCoy, soaring and tender, alive with varied tex-tures, beguiling ears and testing the players by forcing alto and baritone saxes to play at the top of their range. No wonder the group removed their jackets to play it.
Pianist Kanae Furomoto.

trained at the Royal Academy of Music, sensibly stuck to he red velvet dress. But was he choice of music wise? Tippett's Second Sonata emerged as though played under water, the force of its gnarled chords and sudden silences subdued. Furomoto also played some of Ligeti's Etudes and Michael Finnissy's balletic cut-ups, Strauss-Walzer, but never sounded happier than when she was trickling through Karen Tanaka's Crystalline II (imagine one of Messiaen's songbirds stalking a frozen

Earlier, Chamber Domaine had demonstrated the thrill of watching young players successfully scaling Mount Everest Brian Ferneyhoug String Trio arrived with a score pasted on to oblong boards with bits poking out top and bottom; players navigated the jungle of notes with exhilarating bravery and expressive force.

GEOFF BROWN

Demenici

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Oeuvre omelette good in parts

dn's string quartets have been performed during the course of a weekend at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. But, philosophically, can it be said to have happened unless every one of them was heard by at least one person? In order to qualify that person could legitmately have left out the master classes, seminars and children's events, but would have had to keep awake through 14 full-length concerts; five tea or coffee concerts and two candie-lit late-night events — all between Friday midday and Sunday evening.

Attendance at a Service of

Contemplation at a penitentially early hour on Sunday morning would not have been obligatory but, since that was the setting for the string-quartet version of the Seven Last Words from the Cross, it would obviously have been destrable. It would also have added one more to the tally of ensembles heard during the Haydness weekend. There were literally dozens of them, ranging from the amateur-Adria Quartet to the evangelistic Wellspring Quartet and including at mid-alphabetical point the coyly named Quatnor Nostalgique made up largely of refugees from the full-time string-quartet treadmill. The artistic director of

er different from the complete quartet performance delivered by a select group of Haydn specialists over the course of three weeks at the Edinburgh Festival a couple of years ago. Inevitably, with so many different ensembles involved, most of them assembled from students of the RNCM School of Strings and entrusted with one work each, it was a patchy experience. It was more than an egg-eating competition or a dance marathon, however only one of those ad hoc quartets is inspired by the Haydn exposure to stay together and become another Brodsky it

will have transcended its imachievement. The Brodsky Quartet, which emerged from the RNCM 20 years ago, was one of the five established string quartets which contributed a full-scale concert to the event. An exemplary exponent of textural clarity, unshakeably secure in ensemble and tuning, technically impeccable in all but one or two details, it is just the group to demonstrate the inner wa-ings of Haydn's resourceful. string-quartet thinking. For a demonstration of the wit, the passion, the creative energy in these works, one would have to turn to an ensemble less discreet in its choice of tempi, less

GERALD LARNER

modest in expression, less cool

in its general attitude.

LINDSAY IN **GLITTERING FORM VILLAINOUSLY** FUNNY





t isn't Frank's day. He has been in Düsseldorf selling health foods, and during his absence his mother in-law has died. Since Europe is enduring a winter freeze, it has taken him 14 hours to get back to Yorkshire, and he has spent much of that time being bored by "a woman from Carlisle who runs a puppet theatre for the dear. And what happens when he arrives home? His wife Teresa and her two sisters are at each others' throats and, before long, at his too. "It's like marrying into the Borgias," decides Mark Lambert's doleful Frank

At best The Memory of Water is terrifically enjoyable. It puts you in mind of Ayckbourn, Bennett and Joe Orton: but the author is the almost unknown Shelagh Stephenson, a dramatist with a sharp eye and a gift for quirky dialogue in match. Her play impressed at its premiere in Hampstead in 1996. and does so again now, though mainly when the funnier characters are given their heads. When Stephenson attempts to deepen the

situation, her touch gets less sure. The time for the funeral approaches. Two sisters go eccentrically to pieces. The youngest and scattiest. Julia Sawalha's Catherine, bangs about in egomaniac disarray, maddening everyone else with her hypochondria, her psychological problems, her obsession with the latest of her 78 lovers. Meanwhile the oldest, Teresa, moves first into martyr mode and then, sensing that her self-sacrifices have not made the others feel guilty enough, spectacularly hits the bottle. Need 1 say that Alison Steadman rises



But tragi-carnedy, especially tra-gi-comedy with intellectual preten-sions, is a challenging genre, and you become increasingly aware that, while Teresa, Catherine and Frank exist primarily to provoke laughter, you are meant to care about the second sister, Samantha Bond's cool, incisive Mary. She is the family high-flyer, a 39-year-old doctor with a married lover, a longing for a child and an agonising secret in her past. She also has some emotionally loaded scenes with Margot Leicester as the ghost of the

mother who loved and resented her.

It's weighty stuff, and so, in a dif-ferent way, is Stephenson's theme. which is the nature; the importance and the self-serving subjectivity of memory. But isn't there something self-conscious about her mentions of Alzheimer's disease and homeopathic theory and her attempts to re-late them to sisterly arguments about Mum and the past? Similar ly, isn't there something troubling about a play which treats family politics with great intelligence, yet takes one of its victims more seri ously than the others? Yes, but take comfort. You will probably be laughing too much at Stephenson's inventive dialogue and Terry John son's pacy production to worry.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



هيئذر من رالإمها

Such devoted sisters: Julia Sawalha, Alison Steadman and Samantha Bond as the three siblings in Shelagh Stephenson's tragi-comic play. The Memory of Water

Demented feats of funny clay

vine mould man's nature, or do the mortal forces that surround him? In Joseph Nadj's free adaptation of Buchner's Woyzeck, opening the London International Mime Festival, malleable clay becomes the stuff of human namer: il is smeared across lac es to create a deathly grey complexion, it is moulded into little figures and felt affectionately; at the apex of the violent and demented action a fullsized human bust of minutely. lifelike detail has its entire face sliced off and crushed. The human beings, in their turn, are treated like some kind of cheap raw material to be pressed into shape at the hands of the military authori-

Oeuvre one

200d in pa

Nadj has dispensed altogeth-er with Büchner's text, exploring the themes of obsession and repression through fluid ensemble mime. The physical invention is breathtaking: at one point a soldier is "created" from scratch; a full-sized man thrown about in a blanket as if he were nothing but a strangeshaped rag and then inserted into a uniform nailed to a door. The constant threat of destruction overshadows the action; one character is decorated with a pair of nooses, knives are thrown about and apples and eggs crushed into pulp. When Woyzeck does eventually submit to his violent impulses, they are taken to cannibalistic extremes; the destruction of those around him being destruction of the



passes by unnoticed.

the shabby little stage is equal to anything attempted in the effects-rich world of cinema. and the overshadowing sense of wrongness is even more impressive for being largely unatlinear action. It seems a shame that the subject-matter is so esoteric, since this talented company is unlikely to convert any mimephobics to the cause.

likely be haunted by Nadj's horrible vision long after the demented action has finished.

including a surreal cycle race in which the competitors have to carry their vehicles around in order to overtake one another. The detailing is meticulous and understated; one character has a raining hat, another two real birds in a cage, another produces whole eggs from thin air. Such little elements of magic take place almost inci-dentally, indeed the action on the stage is so rich that much At the level of performance

tached to any notion of plot or

There are great moments of

and choreography, this is si-lent theatre at its physically demanding best. The disturbing claustrophobia established on

However, those prepared to leap into the textless void are

* HETTIE JUDAH

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament SHERIDAN SMITH

Age: 17.

Profession: "All-round entertainer," to quote her CV.

Where can she be seen? At the Donmar Warehouse for another ive weeks in the revival of the 1987 Stephen Sondheim-James Lapine musical Into the Woods. As directed by John Crowley, Smith puts a delightfully blunt and impish Yorkshire spin on the character of Little Red Riding Hood, even if not a few American tourists have mistaken her North of England accent for Cockney

A Yorkshire Red Riding Hood? And why not? At the auditions. recalls the Doncaster native, "there was never any sense of 'You have got to do it this way.' It felt a bit strange doing the part in a posh accent, so I said, 'Would you mind me just trying it out in my own voice? They said, You do it however you feel best,' and then when I actually got the part, I just kept on with it."

Was it a taxing role? "I found that she was quite a lot like me, actually. Riding Hood comes across all sweet and innocent, when actually she's just this cheeky little thing who speaks her mind and eats a lot — which is a lot like me."

Does she come naturally by her talents? Sounds that way: Smith's parents are country-and-western performers, and her 23-year-old brother is into Oasis and has his own band. The famiy has encouraged her through four years with the National Youth Music Theatre: three separate engagements playing the ti-tle role in Annie, and a West



End run as Talhilah in Bugsy Malone: "Mum and Dad have never pushed me to do anything. They always say, 'Are you still happy?' If I ever said no I'm not, they'd come and get me and take me home."

So is she happy? Most definitely — "this is really exciting, the biggest thing I've ever done"notwithstanding the seasonal perils of flu. "We've got all the medicines." Smith says of the show's distaff players, who share a dressing room. "It's just that time of year; touch wood, I've not been too bad."

MATT WOLF

OPERA: Rodney Milnes struggles with a pair of musical curiosities

Lurve in a cold climate

el Barber's grand romantic opera, was given a slap-up pre-miere at the New York Met in 1958, with the leading singers of the day in decor by Cecil Beaton, and has occasionally been revived. The first British performance was given on Monday by the Other any in the Studio Theatn at the Lyric Hammersmith; a reduced orchestration had been promised, but in the event the performance was accompanied by piano only and a (justifiably) defensive programme note about "work-shop" conditions in preparation for a full-scale production. We have been warned.

Vanessa needs all the help it can get. Gian Carlo Menotti's libretto deals with "lurve" rather than love, in syntax that might bring a blush even to the cheek of Dame Barbara Cartland. The Scandinavian aristocrat of the title has been waiting in her Nordic fastness for the return of her Lost Love for 20 years; he, or rather the Lost Love's son, turns up, instantly seduces Vanessa's niece Érika, but eventually goes off with Vanessa to start life afresh in their new mansion in Paris (delete Cartland, insert Daisy Ashford). At curtain-fall, Erika is left waiting. The characters, like those in certain plays by Rattigan and Coward, or indeed Poulenc's Voix humaine, make sense only if you acknowledge that they are all men.

Barber's score is unashamediv. efficiently neo-romantic: conventional arias, duets and dance scenes, with a fine quintet to round the evening off. Much of it is very beautiful. But in the context of earlier American operas like Porgy and Bess and Street Scene, not to mention what was happening in Europe (Billy Budd was already seven years old), it is in a time-warp, already a historical cu-

And, quite apart from the absence of an orchestra, it received no help whatsoever. Healthy operatic voices made no concession to the tiny space - the sound level was ear-splitting — and the action was virtually undirected: characterisation, motivation even at this Mills and Boon level, were fatally ill-defined. The



Ear-splitting: Meryl Richardson (Vanessa) and Evan Bowers (Anatol)

title role was cruelly miscast, and only the excellent mezzo Louise Mott (Erika) and the experienced Richard Angas (the would-be Chekhovian Doctor) emerged unscathed.

A brave effort, or irresponsibly foolhardy? Either way. I'm not sure this should ever have been out before a pay-

here's no getting away from it: The Golden Cockerel is a profoundly mysterious work. Why did the tsarist authorities react so violently to this fairytale fantasy, danger-ous only in its own over-lengthy inconsequentiality, and subversive only to the most paranoid of censors? Why did Rimsky set it? Is it just the sensational sucin London in 1914, that has given it the tag of Rimsky's best opera? (It isn't.)

What on earth is it about?

Oh, the hell with it, lie back and enjoy the music, which is all Sadler's Wells audiences can do with any profit when faced with the Royal Opera's staging. hurling out images as varied as the Winter Palace-as-hospital and Boris Yeltsin as pop star in the hope that some will hit the mark, is little help: it's an evening for do-it-yourself decoders, if they can be bothered when the grey-box set offers little visual enchantment and the action is so innocent of fantasy, so joyless, with scarcely a laugh all evening. The language barrier is virtually insuperable: reading jokes on supertitles is not the same as hearing and watching them being delivered.

But with Gennady Rozhdestvensky at his most genial back in the pit after the illness that prevented him conducting the first night, the purely musical rewards were substantial last Thursday: he loves this music, never hurries it, relishes Rimsky's near-parodistic "exotic" colouring, caresses the chamber-music delicacy of the instrumentation. The ROH Orchestra played beautifully for

And the alternate cast boasted some excellent singers, trying desperately to communicate with a numbed audience. Darina Takova's Queen of Shemakha was no mechanical nightingale: she has a really meaty, neo-spinto soprano with sufficient agility to skitter about above the stave — lovely. Vladimir Matorin (Dodon) both fields characteristically Russian, polished-granite bass sound and has delightfully mobile features: he came nearest to getting some of the com-edy across. His colleague from the Bolshoi, Mikhail Agafornov, negotiated the Astrologer's high notes fearlessly, not always beautifully, but certainly authentically. Anne Dawson (Cockerel), Gillian Knight (Amelfa) and Timothy Robinson (Guidon) sang strongly but were largely defeated by the staging. Thank heavens for Rozhdestvensky.

Several kisses short of a ball

very classical ballet company worth its salt needs a ballet like Michael Corder's Cinderella. His award-winning setting of the Prokofiev score is well stocked with fine classical writ-



Gorky's blistering

comedy of family life

ing, elegant and exhilarating choreography that penetrates deep within the corps and brings a regal sheen to the entire company.

Corder's production, created for English National Ballet

in 1996, owes its allegiance to 19th-century Russia and, unlike Ashton's for the Royal Ballet, nothing to English pantomime. He frames the stage with shimmering ensemble work and he isn't afraid of thinking big in his set pieces: Cinderella's entrance to the ball is magnificent, the Act II pas de deux grandly declarative, and Act III's moonlit finale maiestic.

For the soloists, the choreography wears its emotions lightly but clearly. Cinderel-la's sadness is held in long melancholic phrases, while her fantasies are evinced in dances of felicity and grace. The Stepsisters move with staccato fire, pointedly devoid of charm.

The downside to Corder's production, now revived for ENB's winter season in London, is that it exposes weaknesses in the company's ranks, cious, a princess in waiting. and on Monday night these. Yet when she meets her Prince

DANCE

were considerable (although flu necessitated some hasty re-arranging of casting). They were most evident in the four couples who make up the Fairies and their Cavaliers. Corder's writing for them is tricky and proved 100 much. The leading couple, visitors

from the Boston Ballet, also disappointed Larissa Ponomarenko, trained in Russia, has the technical equipment necessary for Corder's heroine. She is a lovely stylist, allowing one phrase to melt into another most attractively. And her trapped butterfly of a Cinderella skims the stage in wonderfully fleet bourrées as she tries to find small delights in her life of drudgery.

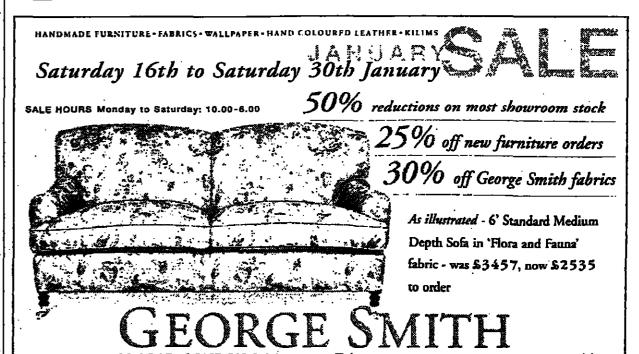
For someone who spends so much time cooking and cleaning she is surprisingly granothing happens. Remote and self-absorbed, her Cinderella could barely bring herself to look at the Frenchman Patrick Armand on Monday, and if they were radiating interpersonal warmth on stage it certainly didn't reach the stalls.

Armand, for his part, looked

like a Prince with a lot on his mind. He rushed on to the stage in the ballroom scene already tense and bad-tempered. Yes, he has great finesse and strength as a dancer, but his demeanour was so grim that one wondered what he was doing at this party. Seeing Cinderella didn't improve his spirits either, and his Gallic hauteur never left him. ENB soloists Simone Clarke

and Elisabeth Miegge did the home team proud with their double act as the sniggering. mean-spirited Stepsisters who take great pleasure in taunting Cinders. The music was another plus. Patrick Flynn conducted Prokofiev's opulent score, encouraging ENB's Orchestra on to an impressive display of lushness and grandeur.

DEBRA CRAINE



TOMORROW

THE TIMES WEST

All the new films reviewed

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The great celler Mististav Roscopovich joins the LSO as solicis in the UK premiere of Solia Gubaldulina's The Centicle of the Sun, Tohakovsky's Roccoo Variations and Seint-Seans Celle Concerto No 1. Ryusuke Numaria conducts.

Numajiri conducts. Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight,

I WEEP AT MY PIANO: Told By An Idiox regulars Hayley Carmethoel. Pachard Clews and Stephen Harper play Lorce, Dail and Buruel in a Institutional Comments.



Mstislav Rostropovich plays at the Barbican

hours. Paul Hunter directs. BAC (0171-223) 2223). Opens longht, 8pm. (2)

SCHUMANN RECITAL: The Finnish soprano Solle Isolicele sings Schumann's Fraueniebe und Jethen tollowed by songs by Strause. Bernstein and Kusle. Wigmore Hell (017-835 2141).Tonight, 7.80pm. (2)

POULENC FESTIVAL: The Royal Academy of Music celebrates the French composer's centenery with concert of five of his works. Among the evening's soloists are the awa winning soprano Emma Bell and barrione Christopher Matman.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Continuing its 25th anniversary season the Academy of Ancient Music arrives here with a concert performance of the 1711 version of Handel's opera Brakdo. Cecilla Bartoll, Eiva Podles and Gerold Finley head an International cast. Christopher Hogwood conducts Synaphory Mall (0121-212 3333). (5) uristopher Hogwood conducts ony Hali (0121-212 3333). (6) ERPOOL: Petr Atrichter conducts

planist Nisolal Demidento joins the Hallé Orchestra to play Grieg's Piano Concerto. This is framed by works by Sibelius and Vaughan Williams.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London ■ House full, returns only 🖸 Some seats available 🗆 Seats at all prices

■ ALEGRIA: The breathtakingly exotic Circuit du Soleil returns to London for the fourth aucosave year with further prodigious leats of conformores, lethal-logking trapeze acts, fire-eating

and clowning Albert Hall (0171-589 8212) PERFECT DAYS: Stobban Redmond's PERFECT DAY 35 SOURCE TRANSPORTED AS THE thirty-something celebrity hardressel (onging for a beby John Tiffany dir. Liz Lochhead's pospirat comedy. Hampstead (0171-722 9301)

☐ THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE. Stephen Lawrence inquiry Timed to coincide with this month's publication of the findings Tricycle Theatre (0171-328 1000)

☐ KRAPP'S LAST TAPE: Edward

Sleadman, Samantha Bind and Julia Savatha star in Shelagh Stephenson's acclaimed drama of family memones.

Terry Johnson directs Veudeville (0171-836 9987) CHICAGO: Mana Friedman injects new blood into the hit revival of Kander and Bob's musical about murder and ficide fame.

Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ☐ JESUS MY 90Y: Tom Cortů n John Dowe's littuly amusing corredy gwing Joseph's side of the story Apollo (0171-494 5070).

E PETER PAN: Justin Salinger plays the title role, with David Troughton as Captain Hook, in return of Floria Laird's enjoyable production. Officier (0171-452 3000). III INTO THE WOODS: Sondhem's

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES LITTLE VOICE (15): Mark Herman's wonderful version of Jim Cartwright's stage hit. Jane Homocks sings

THE SIEGE (15): Denzei Weshington, Americe Baning, and Bruce Willis top over each others' boolleces as they by to deluse an Arab terrorist offensive in Manhattan. Chillingly real, beautifully acted. Director Edward Zwick fingers a real raw nerve.

PSYCHO (15): Hopeless remaile of Hitchcock's original. Gus Van Sant re-shoots this classic fear movie in colour, misses the ironies and hisplaces the shuddening suspense. Vith Vince Vaughn and Anne Heche loing their worst to replace Anthony

ns and Janet Leigh. z (PI) (15): Low-budget sci-fi enture by David Aronofsky that charts the madness of a genus nathematician who is haunted by regitmeres and money-mad anvestors. Sean Guillette is the

ANGEL DUST (ICA): Cool, classy Japanese melodrama about a psychic detective who has to nail her

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG): A reasouringly scratchy reprint of Howard Hawks's 1944 classic in which Lauren Bacall shoots fish in a

CURRENT

THE ACED HOUSE (18): Three darkly come tales of drugs, drink and halluchason by Irvine Weish. An indigestible onslaught With Stephen McCale, Ewer SITCOM (18): A French bourgeos tamiy unbuttons (self. Midly owering

tampoon, ercellently acted ensemble cast. Director, François Ozon. STAR TREK: MISLERECTION (PG) Panick Stewart's Enterprise crew come to the rescue of a peaceable race who have found the elior of youth Lightly likeable. Director, Jonathan Frakes ENEMY OF THE STATE (15): WIR Smith's lawyer tumbles upon a political conspiracy. Existing fast-paced thriller with Gene Hackman and Jon Voight. WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15): Robin Williams wades through the alterite trying to find his loved ones. Technically dazzing, but sabotaged I Technically dazzling, but sabotaged by a woolly script With Annabella Scioria. Cuba Gooding Jr. May Von Sydow



Not the Big Apple's finest hour. 42nd Street as it was in 1987 before the big clean-up - a sleazy row of porn cinemas and peep-shows, with hard drugs being sold openly on the street

Miracle on 42nd Street

New York's seediest block has been reborn as the heart of theatreland.

Benedict Nightingale reports

ome 15 years ago 1 walked with a New York drama critic through what had been the heart of America's theatreland, the section of 42nd Street that links 7th and 8th Avenues. "It's worse than Calcutta," he said. If anything, he understated. No amputees were begging for rupees; but there were homeless people pushing shopping carts crammed with bric-a-brac, drug peddlers in hoods whispering "smoke? smoke?" prostitutes porn shops, peep-shows, seedy cinemas offering XXX-rated movies, and no doubt crack houses

behind the sleaze and stink. But imagine Calcutta transformed into downtown Sydney or Cardboard City into an urban Olympus comprising the best of Piccadilly. Shaftesbury Avenue and Covent Garden. Within the past three years 42nd Street has been reinvented, acquiring three renovated theatres in the process, including the most beautiful I have ever seen. And by 2002 when more playhouses, no fewer than 39 new cinema screens, restaurants, and a branch of Madame Tussaud's will be active - New York's old, decaying heart will have

had a transplant. Back in the 1890s and early 1900s this was where the big fashionable theatres were built - 12 in all. Here, New Yorkers saw musicals by Gershwin. Porter and Berlin,

W.C. Fields, Tallulah Bankhead, Bea Lillie, Gertie Lawrence and Mary Pickford, John Barrymore's celebrated Hamlet, Coward and Olivier in the American premiere of Private Lives. Before the stock market crash, and occasionally even after, 42nd Street (and this block in particular) was more the Great White Way than Broadway itself.

But in the 1920s and 1930s

the theatres north of 42nd Street grew in number and importance, and those that survived on the street dwindled first into burlesque houses. then into tacky cinemas. In the late 1970s the city fathers committed themselves to redeveloping the block, but the only visible result was yet more decline. "There were studies and plans, and studies of plans, but nothing happened," says Cora Cahan, president of New 42nd Street, the non-profit organisation that was eventually asked to oversee the regeneration of the block, and specifically of its disused theatres.

That was in 1990, by when the street was, in Cahan's words, "a black hole, the belly of the beast, the saddest place in Manhanan". Its public telephones were in effect offices for drug-dealers. People walking to New York's bus terminal at 42nd and 8th often made detours down 41st or 43rd Street because the obvious route was so crime-ridden. Cahan has seen undercover cops



Today, Disney and others have revitalised the historic theatres with family entertainment

event. The Disney Organisa-

tion decided it needed its own

pulling guns on the block, and shops had closed, the builders once had to take cover when removed their lences to reveal gangs started a shoot-out. New 42nd Street's board de-

cided it did not wish to transform the strip into a spurious Champs-Elysees, still less a pedestrian precinct or mail. It would remain a main artery, teeming with cars, but with its old grace and glitz restored.

ut how to accomplish this, given problems ranged from endless lawsuits by landowners fighting slum-clearance orders to the arrival of a Republican Mayor with a strong belief in market forces? The first key decision was to use much of the money allocated by the previous administration on renovating one smallish theatre, the

So in 1995, before the porn

slope incongruously topped by a dead pigeon. On one freezan edifice that had cynical ing day stalactites drooped New Yorkers pressing their from a chandelier. All that noses against its glass doors in was lacking to complete a disdisbelief. There, complete with mal picture was the ghost the suicidal Ziegfeld girl who the gorgeous double-staircase haunts the New Amsterdam's entrance removed 60 years earroof and was once seen by a selier, was a theatre specialising in work for young people and curity guard gliding through a offering tickets as cheap as \$6 window on to 42nd Street. But Disney went ahead, and for visiting shows that recently included our own Young Vic's two years later was presenting The Lion King in a theatre that Grimm Tales. Then came a might have been decorated by second, even more crucial

Della Robbia and Burne-

Jones. Everywhere there is a

ENS THEATRE 0171 494 5040

New York theatre, and agreed mural, some Art Nouveau glass, or a carving in plaster, marble, timber or porcelain to to spend \$35 million renovating the New Amsterdam on enjoy. Look up, and there are the south of 42nd Street. wonderfully sculpted nymphs. Cahan remembers her trips Wander about and you find a to the derelict theatre with Disney's top brass. The roof was huge baronial fireplace beopen to the rain. Fungi grew in hind the stalls, paintings of historic New York in the cryptthe stalls. Falls of plaster had turned the stairs into a skilike smoking room, friezes evoking Wagner and Shake-speare, the Victory of Art over Falsehood and a myriad other panels. If you think of Disney only in terms of cute toy bugs. funny mice and smiling salespeople (and there are plenty of those in the store it has opened next door) see the New Amsterdam and think again.

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t any rate its opening gave heart to developers and prospective tenants. Livent Organisation transformed the Apollo and Lyric theatres into the Ford Centre. New York's best-equipped playhouse. A leading company, the Roundabout, is to occupy the rebuilt Selwyn Theatre. A 25-screen cinema complex side, and another, with 14 screens, will be part of a vast "entertainment walk" with shops, restaurants and a hotel

So it goes on. HMV is to onen a store on the south. Revters will build its new home on the north. New 42nd Street has yet to decide the future of Times Square Theatre, where The Front Page and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes had their premieres, but is raising a tenstorey edifice containing dance and drama studios and a 200-seat theatre for Off-Broad-

exciting? I can't think of one.

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way companies. At night light will be played on to this building's glass front, creating the effect of a shimmering spire that will pulsate with colour. Could there be an apter symbol of the transformation of what was arguably America's grottiest city block into its most improbably

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RACING: CLASSIFICATIONS UNDERLINE LACK OF QUALITY IN SPEED AND STAMINA DIVISIONS

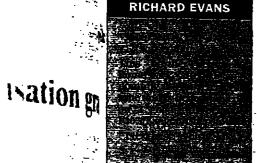
Top performers take middle ground

THE end-of-term report on the Flat class of 1998 admonishes breeders that they could try harder in their two weakest subjects, pure speed and applied stamina. For while the In-ternational Classifications, unveiled by a panel of handicappers in London yesterday, sustains an overall strength in depth, there appears a distinct

fraying at the edges.

Elnadim, so disappointing after winning the July Cup, is leading European sprinter with a rating (121) that further exacerbates the decaying standard of recent ways. The standard of recent years. The average rating over the past decade is 125.7, compared with one of 129.5 for champion milers and 132.7 for the top horses over 12 furlongs.

Stayers, meanwhile, continue to be perceived as gawky and unglamorous on the bloodstock catwalk. Though the cup races once again pro-



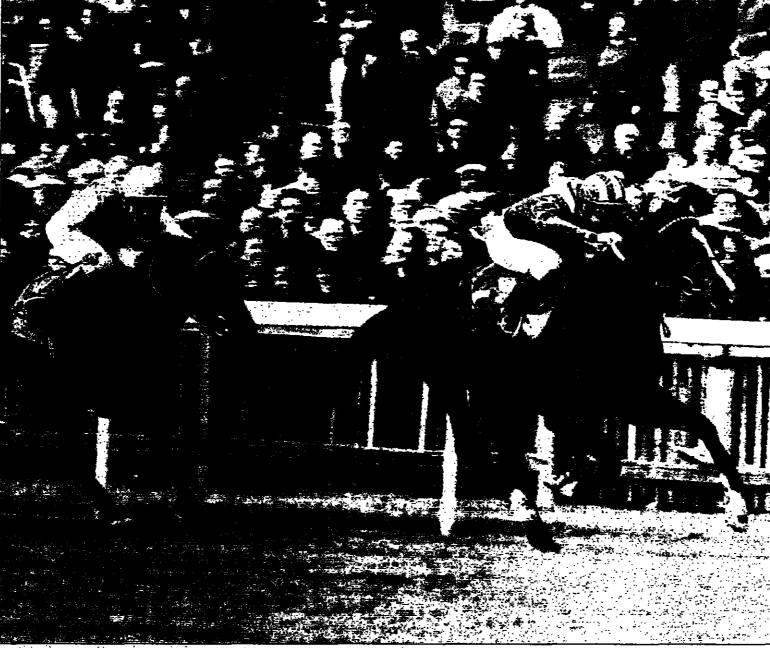
cles of the entire calendar, at 120 the top stayer, Kayl Tara. could not match even the

bleak ten-year average of 121.1. Their plight is familiar. Yesterday's figures, however, confirm a corresponding dilution at the other end of the spec-trum. Though there is always a pragmatic demand at the sales for sharp, precocious types, it would appear that naked speed is being treated as a slightly downmarket aspi-

Geoffrey Gibbs, the panel chairman, said: "The speed division and, to an extent, the distance division have both become less competitive. Dayjur was the last outstanding sprinter and even he set out to be a miler and became a sprinter almost by mistake. Dick Hern himself said that he never so misjudged a horse." Stallions command a great-

er commercial following over \$2 7705 stypes dip their toes into classic water — Aidal even ran in the Derby - before finding their metier as sprinters. A similar fate will befall some of those at the top of the 1998 juvenile ratings, which are headed by two colts with obvious stamina "timitations."

Mujahid, a son of Danzig rained for Hamdan al-Maktourn by John Dunlop, is champion after earning a rating of 123 with his exposure of Stravinsky and company in he Dewhurst Stakes. Connecions have already expressed heir reservations about a nile, however, and there must e similar questions over Luain (122). He bolted up in the - Middle Park Stakes over six urlongs, but then ran a disappointing race in the Dewhurst. With Arazi and Celus 3130, aving reached a giddy 130, Mujahid may look one of the manager champion junore anonymous champion ju-



Mujahid heads the two-year-old classification after his fine victory over Auction House in the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket in October

veniles. But, as Matthew Tester, the two-year-olds' handicapper, said: "The exciting thing this year is that you can go down the list and find eight or so horses that wouldn't sur-

Guineas. The Dewhurst didn't settle the issue. Whereas last year you could be reasonably confident that Xaar would win the Guineas if he ran up to his Dewhurst form (127), this time prise you if they were to win a the game is up for grabs.

LEADING TWO-YEAR-OLDS OF 1998

MUJAHID (J Dunlop) LUJAIN (D Loder) ALJABR (Seeed Bin Sumor) ORPEN -- (A O'Brien)-WAY OF LIGHT (P Bary) COMMANDER COLLINS

STRAVINSKY (A O'Brien) BLACK AMBER (N Callaghan) 117 ENRIQUE (H Cacil) BINT ALLAYL (M Channon) EXEAT (J Gosden) JOSR ALGARHOUD (M Channon) 115 RED SEA (P Cole)

2nd Dewhurst Stakes Won Grand Criterium 2nd Prix de la Salamandre Won Prix Robert Papin 4th Dewnurst Stakes 2nd Prix Morny

Won Gimcrack Stakes

Won Middle Park Stakes

Won Prix de la Salamandre

. 2nd Grand Criterium SPADOUN (C Laffon-Parias) 115 Won Criterium de Saint-Cloud

HOW THE TOP JUVENILES FARED AT THREE

115

| 98 | MUJAHID | 123 | ? |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 97 | XAAR | 127 | No group one wins |
| 36 | REVOQUE | 123 | No group one wins |
| 35 | ALHAARTH | 126 | No group one wins : |
| 14 | CELTIC SWING | 130 | French Derby |
| 33 | GRAND LODGE | 120 | St James's Palace Stakes |
| 12 | ZAFONIC | 125 | 2,000 Guineas |
| 11 | ARÁZI | 130 | No group one wins |
| Ю, | HECTOR PROTECTOR | 126 | French 2,000 Guineas |
| | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | Prix Jacques le Marois |
| 39 | MACHIAVELLIAN | 125 | No group one wins |
| 38 | HIGH ESTATE | 125 | No group one wins |
| 37 | RAVINELLA | . 125 | 1,000 Guineas, French 1,000 Guineas |
| | _WARNING | 125 | Sussex Stakes |

"For Lujain, it was probably a race too far. Few genuine milers show that much speed. That's not to say he won't win a group one over a mile, but his inherent speed would be the weapon that enables him to do that." A marked feature among

the juveniles is the poor showing of the French, matched for the first time by the improved Irish. Even among their seniors, the unbeaten Arc winner, Sagamix, could not rival his contemporaries, Desert Prince (128), Dr Fong and High-Rise (127). At 126, he compares pret-ty mortally to the previous Arc winner, Peintre Celebre (136). Godolphin's marvellous

year dominates the Classifications. Among 28 representatives, it can celebrate the overall European champion, Intikhab, who managed a rating of 130 despite the injury that prevented him contesting a group one race. He is rated lib ahead of his superbly brave and versatile stablemate, Swain, whose second King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes win is considered 2lb better than his noble efforts in Dubai and the United States.

On dirt, he rubbed shoulders with some outstanding American older horses, including the Classifications' top performer in Skip Away ([3]). Awesome Again (130) and Swain's old foe, Silver Charm

Gifford rallies to Hide's defence

By CHRIS McGrath

NOBODY was going to look that good, matched against Tony McCoy at his most indomitable on Eudipe, but there were undoubtedly those at Sandown on Saturday who considered Philip Hide particularly embarrassed by the contrast to his riding of Glitter Isle in the Mildmay-Cazalet Chase. Hide appeared to have matters under control from some way out, but Glitter Isle lost vital momentum at the last fence, allowing McCoy to

drive Eudipe past on the hill. Yesterday. Josh Gifford mounted an indignant de-fence of Hide, who lost his post as stable jockey at Find-on last April, but still rides many of the trainer's horses. "People are quick to have a go, but they only notice what happens in the closing stages," Gifford said.

What happens in the country is also important and Philip had the horse jumping like a buck. Did anybody notice that? If our horse had been able to come from behind, you might have seen a different result. He went to the last with the race won, but he stopped and popped and the other horse landed running."
Gifford matched words

with deeds, confirming that Hide would ride Mandys Mantino in the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot on Saturday. Ridden as usual by Hide, Mandys Mantino ran a fine third to Direct Route in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown last month. "I do think he's harshly handicapped." Gifford said. "But he's very

Though Edredon Bleu may miss the race on account of the softening ground, there re-main plenty of well-fancied obstructions, notably Get Real (3-1 from 7-2 yesterday) and Monnaie Forte (6-1 from 9-1). Teeton Mill, brilliant winner of the King George Vi

Chase, will warm up for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup over the undulations of the Cotswold course itself, in the Pillar Chase on January 30. rather than the Peter Marsh at Haydock on Saturday

Venetia Williams also confirmed that the Martell Grand National remains an option for Teeton Mill.

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER

1.15 Charlie Banker 1.50 Masamadas

2.55 Arctic Chanter 3.25 EXECUTIVE KING (nap)

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.15 royal mail conditional jockeys novices handicap HURDLE (52,766 2m 5f) (13 tunners)



ti<mark>ng kadap</mark> 1860-941. ISBN 1980-955 and Crase 3-9 Casa Super, 9-8 In: Casa by 9-6. BETTING SET Norbinds, Set Promotes Than 17 th Charles Barbon, Set Mayor Combination, 10 in Ingalism, 12/1 Ambring Charles (14/1-57).

1.50 WALTON JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

| | | B14, 2m) (11 runneis) | | |
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| 1122245555 | 62 0 | DAKEING DERVICH 16 IF Classes to Politiciting 5 MeRo 16-10 LARFAH 12 P Creativing, Facility (S. M. Page 10-10). IMPRAH 12 P Creativing, Facility (S. M. Page 10-10). IMPRAHED 10 P (From or Proportional 10-10). IMPRAHED 10 P (Four Charp I House 10-10). PEGASOLOG 62F (C. Creativing I). IMPROF 62F (S. M. Page 10-10). SASRE BUTT 6F (B) (From and C. M. Marring M. Bartle 10-10). SASRE BUTT 6F (B) (From and C. M. Marring 10-10). SASRE BUTT 6F (B) (From and C. M. Marring 10-10). SASRE CALL TRUTCHER 10-10. SASRE BUTT 6F (B) (From and C. M. | C State A P McCo. M A Formal R Ourseady P Mass M Wilderson A Magure C Honelyn J Otherns | |
| | | WAVE ROOM 12 (Earl Cadoran, Mr. in tanger 10-10 | J Casteria | |
| 1 | | SATWA SCULEYARD 39F (Ins Samuel Petron) C (Iam) 10-5 | 1 Mages | Ł |

BETTESS IS SI Marc Revo. 4. Supply For personal 6.5 Materiague, 1917 (28%), 6-1 Marchell 16-1 Pages. 75. 12-1 Same Burt Lib Tromes.

2.20 EASTER HERO HANDICAP CHASE

1998 MORSTOCK E-10-8 T Decombs (9-4 bar) R Hodges & ran-

2.55 WILLIAM HILL HURDLE ISHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (Handicap: £5,504. 3m 110yd) (18 iunners)



BETTING 7-2 Arcia: Creater 5-1 Be My Mod, 8-1 Native Field, Smith Too, 10-1 Subwess Weich Silv. 12-1 Atan: Inc. Sophie May, 16-1 others 1993: TOMPETOD 7-11-0 C Lienchyn (3.1 lan) N Twicton-Davies. 15 ian

BE MY MOT and of the transfersp when going chose lated thus good claims now off a 2th lower mark

3.25 HANWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (£5,472, 3m) (4 runners)

501 221/33 NMG LUCIFER 25 (D.F.G.S) (Mr. A Danes) D Righton (0-11-10 ... A Magure 131 502 1P1-PP RASALLAH 27 (6.5) (Madens Green Pathresing Mac H kingth (0-11-1 J Cultory 137 503 25-131 BARK AVENUE 88 (CD.S) (6 Herson) L Primar B -10-10 ... T J Marghy 15 504 -11114 EXECUTIVE KING 18 (CD.S) (6 Hubbard 6 Hubbard 7-10-7) ... A P Not by 1381 BETTING 7-4 Executive king, 2-1 king Lucilos, 5-2 Sant Avenue, 8-1 Ramalian. 1998: SAIL BY THE STARS 9-11-1 S Wymne (7.2) I Fucha 9 iac

FORM FOCES Range Leader 23 as a 67 to Tortal Extress in leading chase 24 Acres 10 million good to sold, previously 251 ad all 6 to Random Hartes and Indiana chase at Monachy fain 11 good in Random Hartes and Indiana chase at Monachy fain 11 good in Random Hartes and Rock 21-d in 3-come handlage chase at Extre form 71 flow, good in light start season. Bank Arenue beat Landon Rock 21-d in 3-come handlage chase at Remotion in monacc chase at Uthouse fairs, good to larn). Executing Ming beaters a distance 4th of 7 to Lond Oil Till, America chase goods 1 at Landon Care, sold, previously, beat Lind Oil The Rock 11-d in 5-come newer chase goods 7 at Landon Care, sold, previously, beat Lind Oil The Rock 11-d in 5-come newer chase goods 7 at Landon Care, sold, previously.

4.00 ASHFORD NOVICES HURDLE



FERRYS GOVERNAR can out an impleasure written on his burdles how and can follow up

COURSE SPECIALISTS

| TRAINERS D Gandrills D Nightson C Maun II Tarcian-Dame O She proof Mr. J Pluman N Hersterson | Win: | Rriss 19 65 21 47 33 24 69 | 11.6 27.7 23.8 27.7 27.7 29.8 19.8 | JOCKEYS J Orzene A Magazie T J Magazie R Connector M Filagorald C Lieuwityn C Magazie | Wins 19 18 5 18 22 8 4 | Rais 55 70 21 83 80 48 25 | % 54 7 24 7 23 8 21 7 20 6 16 7 16 0 |
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BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Kempton Park; 1.50 Sabre Bull, 2.55 Doyenne. Wolverhampton: 3 40 Madame Maxi.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

ingfield Park

.00 (1m 5t) 1. Prince Danzig (J P Spen-er, 4-1), 2, Mystagogue (evens tav); 3, -knged Greybrid (50-1), 8 ran Nr. 15, D 5 turney Smith (Loper Lambourn) Toes: 5.70; 52.00, 51.00, 525.10. DF: £3.60.

17 RU 00 (5) 1. Teer White (Usa Hacket, 11; 2. Cassy Clee (15-2); 3. Soeked (64, 14; 2. Cassy Clee (15-2); 3. Soeked (64, 14; 2. Cassy Clee (15-2); 3. Soeked (64, 14; 2. Cassy Clee (15-2); 3. Soeked (65, 14; 2. Cassy Clee (15-2); 3. Soeked (6

00 (1m) 1. Mewicab (P Fredericks, /3-1), 2 Woolly Winsome (10-1); 3. Grand croret (14-1). Outdamusers 4-1 fav. 11 n. 31, 14 Miss Gay Keleway (Lingfield). Ner 522-50; 52:00, 51:80, 52:00: DF: 10:60 CSF: 5313:83. 30 (1m 2) 1, Philister (P Dobbs, 10-1), Key To The Cay (14-1); 3, Kings Arrow -2), Hawksbill Henry (4th) 9-4 fav, 9 ran. J. 14, K Burke (Wantage), Tota, £12.80; 180, £3.40, £1 10, DF: £39.20, Tota Tri-25, £801 00, CSF, £134.70, Tricast 145.15.

relepat: £19,451.00. acepot: £53.60.



Sedgefield called off, Wetherby to inspect

1986 REFERENCE POINT 127 Derby, King George, St Leger

BY OUR RACING STAFF

THE Sedgefield meeting scheduled for today is the latest casualty of the current cold snap with frost and snow combining to force the abandonment of the card at an inspection yesterday afternoon.

A spokeswoman for Sedgefield said: "There is frost and snow on the track. It is thaw-

ing but there is a hard frost forecast." Kempton Park expects to get the National Hunt show back on the road today, but tomorrow's fixture at Wetherby

is reportedly "in the balance" with a 3pm inspection called for today.

A spokesman for the course, where the high-class hundler,

Princeful, is set to make his chasing debut, said yesterday: "It depends what weather we... get tonight. We have still got snow and

frost on the course but the forecast says it will clear. "It is a question of whether it clears in time. The forecast is encouraging but at the moment the meeting is in the halance."

Hopes are high, however, for tomorrow's meeting at Wincanton. A course spokeswoman a rehabili said: "We're very confident. At zerland." the moment there are no problems and we would have been

able to race today."

Musselburgh officials have their "fingers crossed" for Friday's meeting. "We still have some frost in the ground and frost is forecast for tonight and Wednesday. However, it is forecast to be-

come milder from Thursday night. We are keeping our fin-gers crossed," a course spokesman said. The going is de-scribed as good, good to soft Yesterday was a blank day

for jump racing, with the meet-ings at Leicester and Newcastle both abandoned. Only the ail-weather Flat meeting at Lingfield Park survived. Meanwhile, there have been encouraging bulletins on former jockeys-turned-trainers, Paul Kelleway and

Tommy Stack. Kelleway, 58, now retired, is reported to have won the first round in his battle against pancreatic cancer.

His daughter, Gay, said yes-terday: The doctors at Cromwell Hospital in London say that they have contained the cancer and you can't be-lieve how relieved the family is. He has lost a great deal of weight but will soon be off to a rehabilitation clinic in Swit-

Stack 53 taken ill with meningitis last month, has regained consciousness.

EFEREMPION

1.00 Doberman. 1.30 Pride Of Brixton. 2.00 ice

Age. 2.35 Muddy Water. 3.05 White Plains. 3.40 Burning. 4.10 Sudest.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE 1.00 BASIL SELLING STAKES

(Div I; £1,489: 1m 100yd) (8 runners)

1.30 COGNAC HANDICAP (£2,775: 5f) (12)

7 (8) 503- SHAPP HAT 61 D ISCRUIS 4-8-6 Filter Filter Filter 8-8 (8) 64-4 TRACEYS SUPPRES 4 (8,D) J Balding 3-9-2 J Edmunds 90 (6) 62-5 SUDDMAN 4 (6)D F Felson 6-8 Filter 7-2 Sphonian, 11-2 Tieker's Surprise. 5-1 Aljaz: 13-2 Profe Of Briston, 7-7 Sircup Hort. 5-1 Aladiesmin, 10-1 Village Nahve, Noble Patrict. 14-7 others

2.00 china claiming stakes (£2,107: 61) (4) 1 (A) GA-1 SUE ME 5 (D.F.S.) D Notherles 7-10-0 ____ P Charles (7) 76 2 (1) 20-3 PDLAR MST 5 (V.CD) Mas N Macauloy 4-9-10

11-8 See May 2-1 Point May 5-2 for Age, 16-1 Backharder COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANETS: R Challon, 8 wanters from 26 reports: 30 %; M Prescut, 25 from 111, 22 5%; J Prance, 16 from 31, 19 ffs, M Johnston, 44 from 225 18 7%; F region, 7 from 41, 17.1%; JOGCEYS: C Notice 3 wenter; from 14 from 21, 17.1%; W Ryan, 12 from 67, 17.9%; C Fastiner, 10 from 62, 16.1%; D Sweeney, 16 from 112, 14.3%; A Polit 2 from 22, 13.6%.

lagangap gigyang ar basan basan kiligar kampan merupakan merupakan kereberakan kiliga kereberakan kereberakan ke

2.35 MALIBU MAIDEN STAKES

1 (i) (ii) ABLE PETE B3 0 Carpons 9-0
2 (iii) 602- AVERGING ASCEL 39 ii Linnodes 8-9
2 (iii) 602- AVERGING ASCEL 39 ii Linnodes 8-9
3 (iii) 00- EFMA PISE 10 ii Rinodestesis 8-9
4 (iii) 000- EFMA PISE 10 ii Rinodestesis 8-9
5 (ii) 0- HATHER KYDLAD 05 0 Linis 8-9
6 (ii) 10- HATHER KYDLAD 05 0 Linis 8-9
7 (ii) 2-2 LA FINZA 8 (B) IV RODGE 8-9
9 (ii) LIVE 10 TELL M Samples 8-9
10 (ii) 50- MIDDOY WATER 26 0 Marc 8-9
10 (ii) 50-4 RED VENUS 2 1 Bray 8-9
11 (iii) 0- SCANDER 223 III PREST 8-9
12 (iii) 0- WATER 8-7 WATER 50 U MONTON 8-9
12 (iii) 0- WATER 8-7 WATER 50 U MONTON 8-9

3.05 JAFFA HANDICAP

7-2 Holy Screen 6-1 April 4-2 note theorem 13-2 from Chargest 7-1 Malein Juni-phony, Mache Caster 6-1 Br. Marrett 10-1 offers

3.40 BASIL SELLING STAKES (Div II: \$1,489: 1m 100yd) (6)

1 (2) 15-2 BURRENS 7 (BF CD.F) (: LETHODER 7-9-5 - D. SWRENEY (32) 15 (34) EAST LEICH 57 (5) R + bit center 12-40 - List Watson (7) 59 3 (7) 85-2 MARRENS 18 (20) H CARboy etg. 4-9-9 Dean Mackedom 77 4 (1) 000 - SALFORD LAD 36J J Pas or 5-9-0 - R Price 36 (8) 00-4 SHARP MONOR 11 (4) Mac M Magade, 4-9-0 NeCabe 75 6 (8) 00-4 SHARP MONOR 11 (4) Mac M Magade, 4-9-0 Coppan (7) 67 (4) 0-00 CASAN 5 P Feligate 4-9-9 - S Righton (7) 47 8 (3) 00-0 MADAUS LANK 11 (8,D,S) (1 Hose 5-9-9 5 Carson (7) 81

4.10 JERICHO HANDICAP (\$2,749: 1m 6f 166yd) (6)

6 (1) 5-34 EVEZIO RUPO 2 (V.C.C.) N Literactes 7-7-12 R Thomas (7) [78] 6-4 Substa, 7-2 tillsder Gestat, St. 2-1 April Passon, 5-1 frem Hullo, 10-1 Chap**CYCLING**

Riis issues strong denial over new claims

By JEREMY WHITTLE

BJARNE RIIS, the winner of the Tour de France in 1996. and Deutsche Telekom, his team, have issued furious denials after allegations against them in the Danish media of systematic blood doping.

Riis. who caused controversy in Denmark during the scandal-ridden Tour de France last year with his refusal to condemn categorically the use of erythropoietin (EPO), the performance-en-hancing blood agent, beat Miguel Induráin, of Spain, the five-times Tour winner, dur-ing the 1996 Tour, after

finishing third in 1995. The latest allegations centre on Riis's widely-varying red blood cell count in July 1995, when he consistently chal-lenged Induráin in the Tour's time-trials. According to a tele-vision documentary, Riis's haematocrit (red blood cell count). tested privately by his team, ranged between 41.1 per cent in January 1995 and 56.3 per cent on July 10, 1995, days after the Dane wore the Tour race

leader's yellow jersey. Under guidelines laid down by the international Cycling Union, riders tested with haematocrit levels in excess of 50 per cent are automatically prevented from racing to



Riis: denies allegations

who play Precision Club.

safeguard their health. These guidelines were introduced in 1997, as the fears over widespread use of EPO gained

ground.
"The documents shown in the programme are dubious and we don't know where they came from," a Telekom team spokesman said. "They don't

prove anything."
Riis has denied that the figures refer to his blood count. Those figures aren't mine." he said. "Anybody can come up with a piece of paper. I don't even remember having my blood tested on that day. Of course I have never used

After his third-place finish in the 1995 Tour, Riis left Gewiss to join the Telekom team in 1996. His arrival transformed the German team. 1996 and that of Jan Ullrich, his prodigious young team-mate, the following summer. During the Tour last summer, when both Riis, who acted as the riders' spokesperson, and Ullrich emerged unscathed from a race ravaged by doping scandals, Deutsche Telekom officials announced their intention to invest in anti-doping measures as part of a new openness in the sport. "All our riders are clean,"

Telekom insisted yesterday. They are subject to daily medical controls and even to independent controls. The authorities can come and inspect us any time."

Laurent Jalabert, the former world No I, was also implicated in the programme, which claimed to have found bin bags of used syringes and ampoules of EPO in a hotel room used by Jalabert's ONCE team during the 1995 Tour of Spain. Jalabert and his ONCE team-mates stormed out of the Tour de France last July in protest after a series of police raids and arrests.



Yellow peril: Le Marquand lines up a shot with one of his unique coloured bowls at the world indoor championships

Colour issue exposes bowls bias

target for the opponent."

the charismatic Australian.

They introduce a modern

look and spice the game up a

bit. I'm just a bit concerned

about the set that David is

look very straight to me."

playing with, because they

This latest development

was ratified by the World

Bowls Board and the World

Indoor Bowls Council at a

meeting during the Common

wealth Games in Kuala

Lumpur and the use of col-

oured bowls has been permit-

Le Marquand volunteered

ted from January 1.

A LITTLE piece of bowls his-tory was made at Potters Leisure Resort on the Norfolk coast yesterday when David Le Marquand, a potato grower from Jersey, became the first competitor to use coloured bowls in the world indoor singles champion-

Spectators, accustomed to sombre shades of black and brown, looked on in disbelief as the bright yellow bowls rolled up and down the portable rink. The bowls attracted a lot of attention and provoked some ribald comments, but Le Marquand handled them, and the situation, astutely, giving Robert Weale a tre-

mendous fight before the Welsh champion of 1997 edged home 6-7, 7-0, 7-1, 0-7, The introduction of coloured bowls, which are being developed and marketed by By DAVID RHYS JONES

Taylor Bowls, a long-established Scottish firm of bowls manufacturers, is likely to divide bowls into two camps the traditionalists and the re-

The launch yesterday was acclaimed by some, who felt that the bowls added a new dimension to the game, making it more attractive, particularly to youngsters, but it was scorned by others, who believe that coloured bowls will create problems.

Robert Newman, at 24 one of the voungest competitors. said: "I can't see them taking off. Club bowlers are not going to buy them and it's going to be a tremendous problem for the retailers, who already have to stock different makes, sizes and weights."

Willie Wood, one of the elder statesmen, sport's

Nxc1 Qd5

Rec1+ Qub7 Qb5 Ruf7 Ruf8 a5 Qd5 Rb8 Qb3 Kh7 Kg8

Diagram of final position

Diagram of time position

7

6

1

1

2

1

1

1

1

abcdafgh

White Westra

Black: Thiruchelvam

to use the coloured bowls after his own black bowls failed agreed. "I think they look the green test at the weekend, dreadful," he said, "and so when he arrived at Potters. There was an awkward mobig. As a player, I wouldn't ment when the yellow bowls also failed their first green want to leave just one yellow bowl in the head, because test, but a further test proved they present such an inviting that they were sufficiently bi-However, lan Schuback, ased and he took to the green proudly carrying his yellow gave the idea his approval.

Paul Ingrouille, of Guernsey, was defeated in straight sets, 7-6, 7-1, 7-1, by Sandy Syme, the Scottish champion, from Coatbridge, where the world championships were first played 20 years ago.

Alex Marshall, from East Lothian, a former world pairs champion, indoors and out, was delighted to scrape home 2-7, 7-2, 7-5, 1-7, 7-3 against Billy Mellors, of Edinburgh, one of the brightest young pros-pects on the Scottish bowls

Maier digs Freshwater deep to extend his hat-trick in advantage

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HERMANN MAIER, of Austria, kept his nerve on the treacherous Kuonisbergli piste, in Adelboden, Switzerland, yesterday to secure a World Cup giant statom victory and steal the limelight from Benjamin Raich, his team-mate.

The Olympic champion had promised revenge after finishing third behind Raich in a giant statom race in his home town of Flachau last Sunday. Yesterday, Maier was as good as his word as he completed his sixth victory of the season with a combined time over the two runs of 2min 12.66sec. Kjetil Andre Azmodt, of Nor-

way. Maier's main rival in the overall World Cup standings, finished second in 2min 12.94sec. It was his first podium finish in giant slalom this season. Raich, who was chasing his third win in six days and who led the field after the first leg, finished third. Bothered by a sore back that

forced him to take painkillers before the race, Maier said that he had been considering missing the next races, in Wen-gen and Kitzbühel, to rest be-fore the world championships in Vail, Colorado, next month. However, with Asmodt keeping up the pressure, he intends to talk to team doctors.

"I'm not sure about my programme, I'll make a decision soon," Maier, who tops the overall rankings with 911 points, 228 clear of Aamodt, said."I have to think seriously about it because Aamodt is so close now."

Michael von Gruenigen, of Switzerland, retained the lead from Maier in the giant slalom standings by two points. Second after the first leg, Maier was at his best on his second run, showing no signs of pain or discomfort to record a time of lmin 6.86sec.

Raich also charged down the course, but a costly error at the start of his run denied the 20-year-old another fine victory. I had no problem with the pressure," Raich, five times a junior world champion, said. Tve raced from the front before and know that kind of pressure. I'm just pleased to be on the podium after making a mistake at the top of the

completes safe style

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

ANDREW FRESHWATER may have erred on the side of caution. expecting softer snow and consequently a bumpier course, to finish lith in the international downhill in the first event of the British Land national championships in Tignes, France, yesterday, but his performance was enough to secure his third consecutive British downhill title.

With further snow over-night having died away to leave a crystal clear day of Alpine sunshine and no wind, overhead conditions were near-perfect. Preshwater, 25, skied a safe line, expecting similar conditions to the two previous days of train-ing, and he admitted later that he could have attacked

"I really expected it to be a bit softer and could have afforded to give it a hit more, but nevertheless. I'm happy, he said. The British title is always important, although I'm also tooking at the overall title and that needs four good. results — and this is one."
Freshwater expects to do better in the international junior downhill today.

Marco Sullivan, 18, an American development squad member, won the event. The youngster from Squaw Valley is ranked among the top three juniors in the United States and gave it his all to win by just 0.001sec from Ivica Kostel ic, of Croatia.

Tessa Piric, 20, from Aberdeen, won the women's downhill to secure her third British women's title in four years. Pirie, showing the kind of form that has seen her vault-ing up the world rankings since she returned to the British Land alpine team in the summer, after a two-year absence to study medicine. attacked confidently, finding her edges on the recent snow, to beat Anne Pipet, of France, by 0.64sec.

Chemine Alcott, 16, the British junior champion, took second place to set up a fasti-nating battle for the women's overall fine, with the slalom and giant slalom, her favourite events, still to come.

to 55 per cent of income on sala-

ries will suffer a two-point penalty deduction the next season:

those exceeding the limit up to 60 per cent will lose two points

Memck, (US) Soits. 2. K and K Nakamura (Ja-pun) 12: 3. E Hernazaia and Y Miyar (Japen) 19. Britisch placing: 5. D Gowards and A May 32. 470 webmer: Gold Tieset plate invo-races). 1. S Kedrry and A Fabricant (soil Japts: 2. N Britiner and W Buelle (Ger) 14. 3. Sand M Ward (Den) 14. Britisch placing: 18. K Nutson and B Wesson 59 Stitver fleet (gi-ler insee races): 1. C Smorne and S Usand-zapa (Arp) Spis: 2. L Startforth and A Met-thews (Carr) 12: 3. B Hooper and C Brisebos (Aus) 19. Britisch placing: 4. H Lucas and M Beach 21.

Seach 21.
CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE:
Leg 2d (Satepages to Hawait with miles to
go) 1, Anel (A Thomson) 1,459; 2, Senze (R
Dean) 1,543, 3, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 1,557;
4, Mermens (B Soliens) 1,575, 6, Tapenng (N
Fleming) 1,623; 8, Thermopyiae (M Tod)
1,701, 7, Antiope (K Hamis) 1,748.

SKIING

TIGNES, France: British land cational champlonships: Downhill: Man: 1, A freshveier, (Loch instyllentish Land Aprile Statem) 1728sec; 2, J Moulder-Brown (London/BLAST) 1:18,21; 3, R Geen (Fasin/SLAST) 1:18,64 Women: 1, T Pre (Abenden/SLAST) 1:29,52; 2, C Accott (Ivackerhan/SLAST) 1:29,53; 3, D Bosher (Tecting/Indon/SLAST) 1:29,51; 3, D Bosher (Tecting/Indon/SLAST) 1:23,91; International downhilt; Men: 1, M Suffuen (US) 1:16,75; 3, S Macartray (US) 1:16,75; 3; 5 Macartray (US) 1:16,75; 3; 5 Macartray (US) 1:18,75; British picking: 6, Frestwater 1:17,26 Women: 1, Prile 1:20,50; 2, A Pipet (Fr) 1:21,14; 3, A Lamour (Fr) 1:22,12



By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT This absurdity of modern bidding is from the 1998 Premier League. North-South were Peter Crouch and Steve Lodge,

| Dealer West | Gam | ıc all | IMPs |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| ♠ 842 ♡ Q98 ② J87 ♣ K6 | 7 K 0 - + A 32 W 6 4 A 7 10 | 9743 N E S J 4 J 97 J 43 Q 10 9 | K5 7 A7 7 A5432 4 Q852 |
| w | N | Ε | s |
| Pass | 1 D (!) | Pass | 15 |
| Pass All Pass | 3 D (I) | Pass | 45 |

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: king of clubs.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OCOTILLO

REVERDIE

a. A visual echo

b. A spring song

c. A second flowering

a. A Mexican dance

c. A Roman Catholic vestment

Answers on page 42

b. A spiny shrub

One of the difficult areas of but not forcing, and now Strong Club systems like Precision is handling moderate opening bids with long clubs. You can't open One Club, as that would be conventional, showing any 17+ hand. So, many Precision Club players open One Diamond with either clubs or diamonds as their longest

On North's motley collection I can't see much wrong with passing on the first round: you will be well placed to describe your hand with a take-out double if the opponents bid diamonds: if your partner's main suit is diamonds you can keep the bidding low on a misfit; and if your partner opens in a major you can show your support and diamond shortage with a splinter bid.

Steve Lodge's response of One Spade was encouraging

PINDA

a. A dance

RICASSO

b. A peanut

c. The female panda

a. Rice with fowl

b. Part of a sword

c. Musical direction for repeat

Crouch made the weird bid of Three Diamonds. That apparently showed a raise to Three Spades with diamond shortage. I'm afraid it's all passed me by - I don't think I want to know how they would show a hand with good diamonds.

Despite the warning about

the diamond duplication Lodge went on to game, and with the favourable lie of the spades managed to make ten tricks.

The Times Book of Bridge 2, featuring the best of Robert Sheehan's daily columns is now out. Order your copy from Chess & Bridge, 369 Euston Road, London NWI 3AR, tel: 0171 388 2404, price £7.99, post free for Times readers.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

Qd6 Kf1

30 Noth7 31 Noc1 32 Nd3 33 Ke2 34 Qe6 35 Qa2 36 Kd2

37 Qa3 38 Nf4

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Junior results

scored some exceptional results, including the respective youth world championship titles achieved by Nicholas Pert and Ruth Sheldon towards the end of last year, 11-year-old Jessie Gilbert's in the world amateur championship for women at Hastings, and now a new age record by 10-year-old Murugan Thiruchelvam. He has become the youngest player ever to qualify for a place in a

British juniors have recently

national championship. Today I give two games from his qualifying tourna-ment in York where he finished clear second and thus secured his place in the championship.

White: Watton Black: Thiruchelvam Fulprint York Open 1999

Que

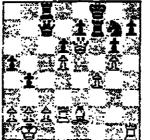
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| | 2 | c4 | еб | 1 | e- | 95 | |
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| ł | 6 7 | Bh4 | 56 | 5 | NI3 | 60 | |
| 1 | 8 | e3 | 0-6 | | 864 | DEL | |
| l | 9 | 8d3 | 867 | ? 8 9 | U-J Do1 | 0-0 65 | |
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| ı | 11 | 0-0 | c5 | 11 | ೌಟರ ನ | Ords | |
| 1 | 12 | Qe2 | Ne4 | 12 | 2 63 | 857 | |
| | 13 | Bg3 | 5 | 12 13 | 3e3 Qa4 | 0xd5 857 816 | |
| | 14 | ರ್ಷನ | bac5 | 1.1 | Çt3 Rad1 | Rfd3 | |
| | 15 | Rfd1 | B16 | 1.÷ 15 | Rad2 | Rd7 | |
| ı | 16 | Rac1 | Kr.B | 16 | Çe5 | R:d5 | |
| | 17 | Bb5 | | 17 | Bc4 | Rd6 | |
| | | | a 6 | 18 | 3:4 | Rd7 | |
| | 18 | Bred 7 | Qxd7 | 19 | 2t5 | Race8 | |
| | 19 | Be5 | Qe6 | 19 20 | මා¢ 6 | 8 : c6 | |
| | 20 | 8.46 | Rxf6 | 21 | 'VeS | 70: 1 4 | |
| 1 | 21 | Ne1 | Pc8 | 22 | Pad 4 | Pxt4 | |
| ı | 22 | Nd3 | d4 | 23 | Noc6 | Ros | |
| ١ | 23 | පැල්4 | cxc4 | 24 | 761 | Ra4 | |
| 1 | 24 | Na4 | Qxa2 | 25 | a 3 | g5 | |
| ı | 25 | Nac5 | Nc3 | 26 | Rd2 | Ro4 | |
| | 26 | Qe? | 87 | | e resigns | | |
| | | | | | | | |

WINNING MOVE

White to play. This position is from the game Gallagher -Habibi, Mendrisio, 1998. How did White make a

By Raymond Keene

decisive breakthrough into the black position?



First division secures backing

FORD motor dealers in the north of England are to sponsor the first division, which begins next month, in the first agreement of its kind outside the Super League.

The lower divisions, which have been amalgamated into an 18-team competition for the 1999 season, struggled by without a backer last season after the two-year deal struck by Super League clubs with JJB

Sports.
"Not only is this a substantial sponsorship, it indicates the commercial potential that exists for the game outside Su-

BOWLS

HOPTON-ON-SEA. Nortolic World In-

FOOTBALL

Fulham v Southampten (7.45) Legds v Rishden and Damonds (7.45) Swanses v West Ham (7.45)

Kick-off 7 30 unless stated:

Scottish League First division

Second division Partick v Alica (7.45) ...

Second round

Ardne v Graenock Mesten.

Terment's Scottleh Cup

Second-round replay

Stating v Monteon:

Queen's Park y Clackman, octo-

OR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern Gri-elon: Braziles Town v Baddyck League Cap: Second yound: Botton v Sacriford, Roting Clor Warned: v Suite Codified Town Third yound: 74-wport AFC v British

Satisfus Collection of the Col

FA Cup

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

per League." a Rugby Football League (RFL) spokesman said. The competition will almost certainly be known as the Ford First Division.

The agreement comes at a time of greater financial stabili-ty for first division clubs after their £10.8 million release payment from the original Super League deal, which has freed them to negotiate their own tel-

evision contracts. The RFL is to meet Super League Europe (SLE) officials to discuss SLE proposals to de-

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE IN IL. Mortrest 3 St

RUGBY LEAGUE: MOTOR DEALERS STEP IN TO FUEL SECOND TIER OF GAME.

ceed the players' salary cap of 51 per cent of gross income. Wigan Warriors fell foul of the cap, which was introduced last

and a penalty system for of-fenders. Clubs who spend up

duct points at the start of the following season, rather than withholding television income, from those clubs that ex-

year, and missed out on valua-ble income. If the SLE plan is accepted, the spending limit will remain at 51 per cent, but with a minimum threshold of £1 million

SAILING

MELBOURPNE: World championships (after sod) (ba) President of the IVC Cap) (but rainfy) 1. Great Partan 3pts; 2, Australia 29, 3. Sheeten 27. Leaver Gold Reet (aster 10 races) hor clearands) 1. B Almale (GS) 20pts; 2, R Scheck (Br. 34; 3, K Sunesson (SR) 10pts; 2, M Section 3, 1, 5 Richertson (GR) 10pts; 2, M Meetingse (Hol) 14; 3, S Multais (Frin 15 Frim Gold Cap) (after five races) 1, M Restricting (Pol) 25pts; 2, K (Aprel Cool 20, 3, 1 Perce (GS) 36 Albert fabrics and E. Smyth (Aust) 13pts; 2 F and G. Brunn (P) 14, 3, 1 and C. McKee (US) 14, British placings 6, F Robinson and Prisable 21. Soling (after lour races) 1, S Meastrage 1, British placings 6, T Robinson and E. Holler 21. Soling (after lour races) 1, S Meastrage (Gar) 18, 3, 1 Welker, N Denman and S. Jackson (Aust) 37, British placings 6, A Beadsworth, R Sydnerham and B Parkin 51. 470 meet: Gold Reet (after five races) 1, C Hospins and M Rumm (Swe) 22, 3, S and J J Image; Pol 26 British placings 2, 4 Departs and M Rumm (Swe) 22, 3, S and J J Gmass; and M Might (Slovens) (Start Papers and J Gambett 61. Silvens fised (after five races) 1, P Foerster and B Reet (after five races) 1, P Foerster and B

and half of any prize-money those spending more than 60 per cent would be docked four points and forfeit all prizemoney.

Wigan are seeking damages in excess of £30,000 from Wen-. II. dell Sailor after the Brisbane Broncos and Australia wing failed to contest a High Court action for reneging on a twoyear agreement to play for Wigan from this year.

FOR THE RECORD

| door championships: Singles: Pressur- nary reund: W. darkson (Ern) bt J. Mals (Erg) 5-7, 3-7, 7-4, 7-2, 7-3, J. Greensade: Waters bt N. Cosett W. Lies- 4-7, 7-6, 7-2, 7-2, First round: S. Syrre (Sort) bt P. In- | Louis 1; Washington 4 New York Islands 3. New Jersey 2 Ottawa 4: Prakadelphia Nachmile 0 Pricerox 1 Buffalo 0, San Jose Los Angeles 0 |
|--|--|
| groude (Guer) 7-6, 7-1, 7-1, A'Marchall Engl or B Meilors (Soct) 2-7, 7-2, 7-5, 1-7, 7-3. | MOTOR RALLYING . |
| CRICKET | DAKAR RALLY: 11th stage (Timbuktu Nema, 548km), Carac I. K. Shinozaka (J. |
| TOUR MATCH: Beland rives day of three! West Indians 220 and 307 (CI. Hooper 70. P. A Walkee 57. B C Lars SS. C M Writoughly 5-60): Boland 136 and 123-5 Match drawn. | pon Mitsubsh) 6th 5mm 31sec 2 J Serva (5p Schlesser) at 1mm 6sec 3 J Schlesser (Fr. Schlesser) 8107, 4 J Kle schlesser (Fr. Schlesser) 8107, 4 J Kle schwarz (Gar, Mitsubshir 814 5, M (Sp. Mitsubshir 833 Lueding overall por Bonst 1 Schlesser 48th 18mm 11sec; 2 P eur at 8mm 57sec 3, Klengchmal 45,2 |
| FOOTBALL | |
| FA CUP: Third-round replays: Post- goned: Barryley v Swedow Notes County v Swelled Uni. SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Postgoned: Fortar v Cycle. Langson v East File | Hotortelless: I. A Co. (SA KTM) 8:04:56. K Taren Frn, KTM) 9:18. 3. I Macynetic 8 KTM) 5:37:4. F Macyn: 8: KTM; 3:57:5. Sanct (Fr. BEM): 10:12 Leading overn positionate: 1. Sanct 38:28:06:2. Macynetic 20: 2. Macyn: 16:13 British placing: 8. Decroro KTM: 1:58:28. |
| | |

TODAY'S FIXTURES

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third related Gamphorn v Leicester.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE.
North West Contented Cartele Util v
Buy. 1 30 Transes v Ontent (12 0)
ANON INSURANCE COMERNATION.
First division: Barrel v Fuham (2 0, Octobre 10 Potentiant) V Breefor Content Services Potentiant V Breefor Services Potentiant V Breefor V Breeford (7.15). Walted v County
7.15). Flest division: Belon v Coverlay
7.15). Flest division: Selven v Coverlay
7.15. Flest division: Selven v Mandam
2.07. Third division: Potentially v Selvential
7.15. League Cape Group two
7.16. League Cape Group two
7.16. Third division: Potential v Destroy
7.16. The division Fallon v Destroy
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SCHITCH TOURING TOWNS BEING LEAGUE: ETH MAYOR GREE Watering COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENG LEAGUE: Promiser distallor: ETC Challen har v Shorkett ARNOTT INSURFACE NOISTH LEAGUE: First division: Bodingon Tavers v South Shorks Shekis SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Promier

COURTAGE CONTRINED COUNTIES LEAGUE Pramier division: February v Vilorg Sports Sandaust v Bediont JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE Pramier division: Insuch v Februare Port and Town.

JURILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hasteram v Eastbourne To MYTERLINK EMPRESS MEDIAND BRYTTATION CUP: Third round: Federham v Crackey Town

MORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE
Hast WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE
Hast division: Lerk CSCR v Chagge
Langue Capt Second round: Asterion Cxilenge v St Heloss Town.

RUGBY UNION Welsh Chellenge Trophy Company v Edinburgh Rewers (7 15).... Pool B

Bridgend v Glasgow Caledonians (7.15) _ THE TIMES STUDENT TROPHY: Semi-finate Brune v Genoble (at Richmand Ad-lett Ground 7 30), University College Cork v Harper Adams (at UCC, 7,0): OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budwelser Langue: New-casile Emiles: y Matur Rownes Lons (7.0). Mai-bell Prophy: Group A: Tharmes Valley Tyrus y Leocasile Pules (8.0). «CE MOCKOET: Sekonda Supertengue: Ay-Southar Explor; y Shelhold Stellers (7.20). London Knaftic y Marchester Stom (7.0).

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL TOURNA-MENT: Ment: First round: L Hewd! (Aus) bt P Rather (Aus) 7-6. 6-1; T Muster (Austra) bt J Bjorkman (Swa) 7-6. 6-7, 8-3, J Steicheben (Aus) bt A Berasstegul (Sp) 6-1, 6-7, 7-6. C Loya (Sp) bt A J Obrans (Ca) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 17 Kieler (Ger) bt M Damm (Ca) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 17 Woodbrigge (Aus) bt M Voleter Luck L.E. water (Ser) bi M Dennra (C2) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 1 Woodbridge (Aus) bi M Teibruit (Aus) 1-6, 6-0, 7-6, G Kuerben (Br) of G-Russelso (GB) 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, C Proline (Fr) bi S Droper (Aus) 6-4, 7-6, 1 Martin (US) bi H Arazi (Mor) 6-2, 6-4, Kucera (Solvelas) bi F Claver (Sol) 6-4, 7-6, Women's First counch A Huber (Ger) bi T Percova (Russ) 6-2, 6-1, S Williams (US) bi I Cornochaspu (Ang) 6-4, 6-2, 5 Grad (Ger) bit A Suchama (Jepan) 6-0, 8-4; A Noomkorn (Flass) bi S Fainre (A) 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, Geoded thused: B Schalt (Austral) bit C Martinez (Sol

.6-1, 6-2
All CRICAND OPEN: First nound: F Meige-All CRICAND OPEN: First nound: F Meige-II (87) th A Hurt (N/2) 6-1, 7-6; F Manste (Sp) to L Telerinen (8) 7-6, 6-2; F Vicentre (Sp) to L Terango (US) 8-2, 4-6, 6-4; D Parest (C2) to G Cares (Avg) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, M Zahalest (Avg) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, M Zahalest (Avg) 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, M Zahalest (Avg) 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, M Zahalest (Avg) 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4, Parest (Florid) to M Pices (Chief 7-5, 2-6, 8-6, 2-6, 4-7, A Voinces (Solicate) to F Squitter (Avg) 6-2, 6-4; A Voinces (Horn) bx J Counter (US) 7-6, 6-1

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RFU pa

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Maier dige Freig THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 1999 Calend his half

Corruption must not claim Olympic ideal again

ه کذار من رائم مهل

that the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City were procured with the aid of bribes, it becomes obvious that none of the Olympic rings

deep to

advantage

If there were such a halo, it would hardly adorn the head of the organisation. Juan Antonio Samaranch, 78, the president of the Inter-national Olympic Committee HOC), reiterated yesterday that, whatever the scale of corruption confirmed by ongoing investigations, the Games will go on in Salt Lake City in February, 2002, Logis-

tically, we can understand why.

However, the morality of the IOC is scarred by reports that as many as 25 of its 114 members are implicated in allegations that they accepted cash payments, scholar-ships for their relatives, a land dealexceeding \$70,000 (around £40,000), medical operations and sexual favours paid for by Salt Lake City Bid credit card. In Utah, a Mormon state that

has been shocked by its "Saligate", the remaining \$250,000 needed to wards the operating budget for the Games of \$1.45 billion will be hard to find. In Lausanne, the home of the Olympic movement, two leading sponsors, Coca-Cola and Delta Airlines, have registered concern al-

In Sydney, the site of the summer Games of 2000, Andrew Thomson, a former sports minister of Australia, has sug-gested that the time will come, after the 2004 Olyrapics in Athens, to not out the Olympic flame

for good. Heaven forbid. This happened once before, when the Games in antiquity were abandoned because of corruption, yet, though they are contain today by unmanageable growth, by we should defend the Olympic ideal to our last breath.

concept that is warped, but the

: some cheats who run in them. Because, despite the evidence that some have taken medals illegally and others would like to emulate that, there remains no more stiryouth of hundreds of nations striving to prove themselves in the are-

na of sport. Better that, for sure, than war. That was the call -The IOC the taking part - that Baron de Coubertin has no made when he revived the Games in 1896. And if corruption could be beaten once, it can be to spare?

beaten again. The IOC has no time to spare because, barely two weeks from now, it hosts the most concerted attempt yet made to nd all sports, Olympic or otherwise, of the curse of drugs. Sama-ranch and his brethren have placed themselves in an invidious situation. They formed a court of arbitration, also in Lausanne, where sport-

ing law can be adjudicated outside

ROB HUGHES



believes the Olympics are worth fighting for

the expense of international lawyers, yet now the godfathers of the Olympic order must clear them-It is good and had that the clock races against them. Investigations

in haste are inevitably

flawed, yet these privileged men and women must come to conclusions and weed out of their system those who blatantly sold votes for favours before they attempt to lead the world out of the

Sacrificial resignations may come, for separate investigations in Salt Lake City clearly name names of IOC members, notably from Leaders Africa, who have taken the biggest bribes. But there is an old Sicilian must be

washes the other — that suspicion? the IOC must avoid. The uncomfortable question to be addressed right at the top of the agenda is what kind of a leader accepts expensive gifts himself and also attempts

saying: una mano lava

l'attra - one hand

to exempt himself from the rule? Samaranch no longer denies that he accepted two rifles, worth at least seven times the \$150 limit that his executive committee laid down for the members. These Browning

firearms from Utah were acceptable. Samaranch contends, because, as president, he does not vote on the Olympic cities.

Nonsense. No one has more influence than the president and few presidents have used it more than Samaranch. Nor was it pleasant to see Samaranch, day after day at the Nagano

Winter Games, sporting a gold-braided collar advertising Mizuno, a Japanese sportswear

manufacturer.

By example, the IOC president, the highest sporting office on earth. must be seen, like Caesar's wife, to be above suspicion. We hear that the Olympics might in future

restrict the vote to the 11-member executive, but, surely, it would be politic also to make it an open ballot, transparent and accountable to

above

The succession, when finally Samaranch gives way, is expected to go to Richard Pound, the Montreal lawyer, who has accepted the poisoned chalice of leading the IOC's internal investigation into wrongdoing over Salt Lake City. He finds

don't like this [corruption] to be out there, but I'm glad it is because it gives us the opportunity to look into it and, hopefully, that opportunity will put a chapter that appears to be somewhat disagreeable behind

It is more than an opportunity; it an obligation. The Olympic Games are the property of mankind and the onus on the IOC is to squeeze out corruption - and to do

before the end of the month. The ideal is worthless without trust and the leaders are not competent to tackle the contamination of drugs unless they are themselves

above suspicion. Rather than any compassion, they must remember that they all had the same opportunity to do what the Princess Royal did a decade ago - return all unsolicited gifts, all bribes, without thanks.

RUGBY UNION

RFU pays penalty for misconduct over clubs' revolt

By David Hands, Rugby correspondent

FOR the second successive month, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) has been found guilty of breaches of International Rugby Board (IRB) regulations. Last month, it was fined for its failure to take stronger action against English clubs playing unauthorised matches with Cardiff and Swansea; this month, its recent conduct has been found prejudicial to the game's best interests and a further penalty will be determined later this

It is hard to determine who is harming rugby the most these days. The crazy world of professionalism has set every man's hand against his neighbour, to the extent that the IRB can now accuse the RFU of being "factually inaccurate" in its presentation of evidence leading up to the IRB discipli-

don Scottish scrum half, who

is qualified for Ireland through his Dublin-born

mother, has been included in

a 26-man training squad in Galway next week (Karl John-

ston writes). Two members of

the Irish Rugby Football Union Academy — Gordon D'Arcy, of Lansdowne, and

Brian O'Driscoll, of UCD,

both backs - have also been

Easterby. 27, whose brother Simon, a flanker, excelled

invited to attend.

nary hearing in Dublin nearly a month ago.

The board has rebutted, sentence by sentence, the assertion of the RFU that charges against it were invalid on procedural grounds and that there was no material case to answer. The issue between them is the action taken by leading English clubs in complaining last April to the European Commission about restrictive IRB practices, which prevented them from negotiating their own commercial agreements for competitions in which they

were involved. At that time, the IRB says, the RFU pledged "absolute and unqualified support" forthe board in its response to the clubs' actions. The IRB disciplinary committee, which was chaired by Tim Gresson, New Zealand, and included Syd

two seasons ago, was three-times an Ireland A replace-

Four players who were in-

cluded in the previous nat-ional squad — Darragh O'Ma-hony, Pat Duignan, Mick Gal-

way and Alan Quiulan -

have failed to make the party.

GRAVE IBINED, ID TITAKE THE DATTY.
SQUAD: Bactor: CO Shee, G. Germpsey, J.
Bishop, J. McWeeney, J. Bell, K. Mapps, R.
Hendarson, E. Elwood, D. Humphreys, C.
McGurmess, C. Scally, G. Easterby.
Forwards: P. Cohestay, J. Fizipatrick, R.
Conigen, P. Walface, K. Wood, R. Neschale, P.
Johns, M.O'Kelly, J. Davidson, D. G'Cuinneagain, E. Miller, V. Cossello, T. Brennan, A.
Ward.

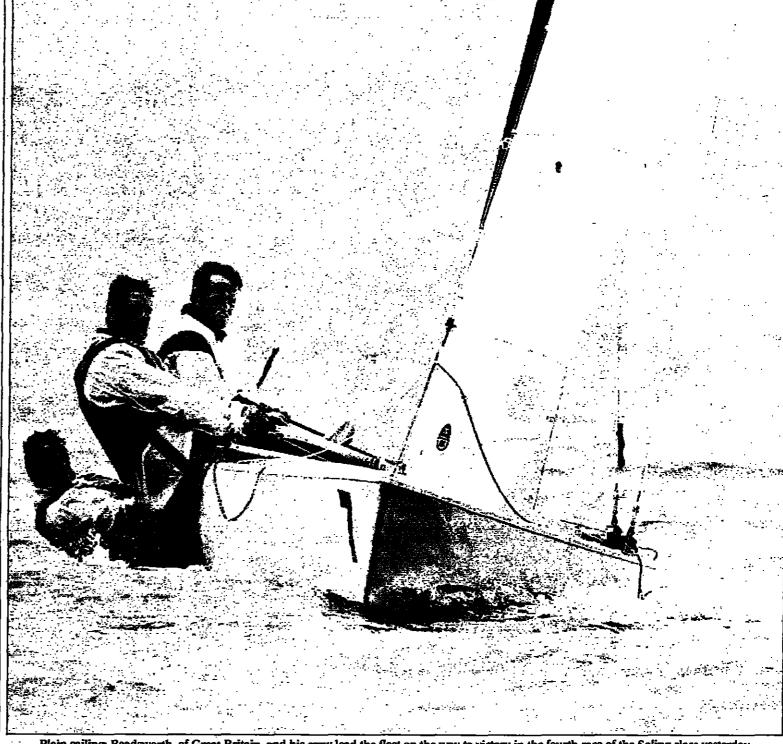
ment last season.

Miliar, of Ireland, Rian Ober holzer, of South Africa, and Shiggy Konno, of Japan, found subsequent support to be less than lukewarm and was affronted that the RFU had not informed it of any change in stance.

That the RFU was in administrative chaos for much of last year has been accepted, to a degree, by the board; by late autumn, however, with a new administration in place, it found the RFU prepared to play hardball and, clearly, it does not like it. The upshot is that the RFU has been found to have breached the board's Bylaw No 7 and Gresson's disciplinary committee is now in the process of considering an appropriate penalty, which could range from another fine and imposition of costs to the dramatic, and unlikely, ultimate of expulsion.

IRB's legal advisers to address the potential sanction, to serve the decision on the RFU by tomorrow and any response from England to be forthcoming by January 21. Since the RFU has a management board meeting tomorrow, it should have some idea of its fate: Francis Baron, the union's chief executive, met Stephen Baines, his opposite number from the IRB, yesterday morning.

The union's response will be known after the meeting tomorrow, but, to judge by Baron's robust reaction to the board's decision last month to withhold £60,000 from IRB Trust funds, it will not take this latest development lying down.



Plain sailing: Beadsworth, of Great Britain, and his crew lead the fleet on the way to victory in the fourth race of the Soling class yesterday

Ainslie spies Laser title on horizon

Students on battle stations

Easterby promoted

to Ireland squad

GUY EASTERBY, the Lon- with the Ireland Under-21 side

AFTER the dramatic events of the weekend in the European Cup come the semi-finals of the student version. The Times Trophy, tonight.
The passion displayed by UI-

ster in their victory over Stade Français is likely to be replicated in Cork, as University College, Cork (UCC) emertain Harper Adams, the agricultural college from Shropshire. while Brunel and Grenoble, the French student champions last season, should be tovolved in a similarly epic clash at the Richmond Athletic

Irish student rugby is particlarly strong at the moment. BY MICHAEL AYLWIN

With University College, Dublin (UCD) having disposed of Toulouse, the champions last season, in the qualifying rounds, UCC are unlikely to shirk the task of keeping the Irish flag flying in the tourna-

They earned their place in the semi-final by beating Northumbria It was wrongly reported in this column last week that Northumbria had been surpoed of several of their players in the qualifying stages by Newcastle Falcons. They lost them, in fact, to another, unnamed, local side,

but were back at full strength for their 23-13 defeat in Cork. Harper Adams have been the surprise package of the tournament. Based on a powerful pack, their passage to the semi-finals has been at the ex-

pense of Rome, Durham and Trinity. Carmarthen. Brunel have claimed notable scalps in Swansea, who were finalists last year, and UCD. Drawing from the ranks of Saracens. Richmond and London Scottish, and coached by Paul Volley, the Wasps flanker, they will pose a serious threat to Grenoble, who se-cured their semi-final spot by beating Loughborough.

BEN AINSLIE remains firmly on course for his first Laser class title at the expense of Robert Scheidt, of Brazil, and 138 other sailors, after a solid performance yesterday in a difficult, shifting breeze at the world sailing championships in Melbourne.

With just two more races to come today, Ainslie, 22, from Lymington, Hampshire, has extended his lead over Scheidt from five points on Monday to 14 last night. In the first race yesterday - the ninth of the series - Ainslie kept his head in tricky conditions to post his sixth win of the championship. while Scheidt could finish only eleventh. In the second race, Ainslie

was eleventh, but both Scheidt and Karl Sunesson, of Swe-

By Edward Gorman, salling correspondent den, who has moved ahead of Michael Blackburn, of Austral-

ia, into third place, had their worst races of the regatta, finishing in 28th and 47th place respectively. Ainslie needs to hold it

together today to secure the prize and he sounded confident yesterday. "I'll try to get some good races in and not worry too much about the other sailors," he said. "They've all got worse discards than me, so I'll be looking to sail to win - I hope to, anyway."

In the Europe class, Shirley Robertson maintained her overall lead, adding two fourth places yesterday to her two wins on Monday. Her chances of an overall victory are looking good, with Caroliin Brouwer, of Holland, the title-holder, placed in the low twenties at present after being over the line early in the first

race yesterday. Iain Percy is now third overall in the Finn Gold Cup after winning the sixth race of the se-ries, while Andy Beadsworth has moved up ten places to sixth in the Soling class after winning the fourth race of the

"A break at the start gave us a chance," Beadsworth said. "We had good pace and got into the shifts quickly and had established a good lead ten minutes into the race. " Lawrie Smith is now elev-

enth, but the leader remains

mark, with Jochen Schuemann, of Germany, the triple Olympic gold medal-winner, in second place. Tim Robinson and Ian

Stig Westergaard, of Den-

Walker are now the top British pairing, in sixth place overall, in the 49ers after accumulating seven top-five finishes. They are now just eight points behind the leaders. Chris Nicholson and Ed Smyth, of Australia, lan Barker and Daniel Phillips are twelfth while Andy and Ian Budgen have slipped to thirteenth

Sir Chay Blyth has announced that two of the identical 72ft steel yachts that will take part in the next BT Global Challenge, starting in Sep-tember 2000, are to be built in China at the Kimis Yacht Company in Zuhahi. The decision is part of a strategy by the Challenge Business to attract sponsors from China and

Hong Kong. The BT Global Challenge. which is Sir Chay's third westabout circumnavigation for paying amateurs, is expected to involve up to 15 yachts. The plan to build two boats in China is made possible by the provision for flat-pack assembly of the new Rob Humphries-designed yachts. Originally, Sir Chay had

envisaged boats being built in several foreign countries. However, it now appears all the others will be built in

GEOFF COOKE, the former England manager, has denied reports linking him with the job of chief executive at Bath. "At this stage, it is pure speculation. I have not had any contact with anyone from Bath. If anyone wants to talk to me. I would consider anything because I need a job." Cooke, now back living in Leeds, said

yesterday.
Cooke, who hopes that the assets of Frank Warren, the Bedford owner, will soon be unfrozen, has been out of work since resigning from Goldington Road, Bedford still owe him substantial sums after their promotion from the second division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership last year. Reports suggested that he had been invited to meet Andrew Brownsword, the backer of Bath, recently. It is no secret that Bath are

Bath consider taking plunge with Cooke

looking for a chief executive who has rugby as well as business acumen and Cooke would have appeared to fit the bill. Bob Calleja, the club's general manager, said: I cannot comment on ... individual names. The position is still open and I doubt it would be filled for at least three months."

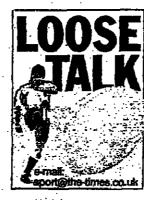
Crossed wires It appears that the "talking flags" experiment between need some fine-tuning - if anything to go by. The

linesmen and referees might Stuart Piercy's experience is referee was in charge of the Northampton v London Irish Premiership game last Tuesday when he heard an unfamiliar voice in his

earpiece yelling "Come in, Gate 4." It kept happening and, after the match, Piercy discovered that he had been picking up the head of security at Franklin's Gardens issuing instructions on his walkie-talkie.

David Grashoff, of the East Midlands Society, had an even worse time of it last season, when refereeing Blackheath v Saracens in the Tetley's Bitter Cup. He kept hearing a local taxi company controller in his car - and wasn't sure whether "Pick up No 10" referred to him or a driver on the street.

Absent friend With the new year into its



once more to the Five Nations Championship, which begins on February 6. England sit out the first round, waiting a fortnight for the Calcutta Cup meeting with Scotland at Twickenham, For Bili

bittersweet occasion. Because the match is on Sky Sports, it will be the first England v Scotland international at Twickenham that McLaren, now 75, will have missed since embarking on his great commentating career in 1955. Instead, he will be at Wembley for Wales against ireland. "It will be very sad not to be there," McLaren said. "I have always loved Twickenham. It was the first international ground I ever

went to after Murrayfield. At

least I'll be in London on the

day and will be able to hear

the roar when Scotland

☐ Ulster's tremendous victory over Stade Français

at Ravenhill was all too much for Willie Anderson, the former Ireland forward and London Irish coach. Anderson was acting as a summariser for radio, but. when the final whistle went, he was too choked with emotion to speak. Who said big men don't cry?

Bristol fashion

Calling all Bristol fans . . . two local enthusiasts, Mark Hoskins and Dave Fox. are compiling an official photographic history of the club and would welcome any help with the project from supporters with interesting memorabilia. Hoskins said: We would love to look at any Bristol items and possibly borrow one or two

for reproduction. We guarantee we'll treat them with great care and return Hoskins can be contacted during the evenings on 0117 942 6414. Fox on 01454 884077. You had better hurry, Bristol may not exist in its present form for long!

Welsh for hire

The staff of Just Rentals, a firm that supplies televisions in South Wales, now includes no fewer than four stars of the small screen in Neil Jenkins, Martyn Williams, Dafydd James and Dale McIntosh. The Pontypridd international quartet can be seen on television one day and on doorsteps the next with a set

under their arms. Bernard Jones, the Just Rentals chairman, said: "They're all nice lads and everyone at the company is very proud of them." Jenkins, reputed 10 be on a salary of £100,000 with the company, is now tipped to become rugby's first millionaire.

Taking care August 31 is the cut-off point for manufacturers of protective rugby clothing and headgear who may be hoping to secure the International Rugby Board's (IRB) seal of approval. After that date, nothing that has not been tested, passed and officially stamped will be permissible during games. The IRB says that it is taking action because individual unions have been unable to police their own players.

MARK SOUSTER

feuer unexp in the

Jordan calls time on brilliant career

he great ships hung motionless in the sky. over every nation on earth. Motionless earth. they hung, huge, heavy, steady in the sky, a blasphemy against nature. Many people went straight into shock as their minds tried to encom-pass what they were looking at. The ships hung in the sky in much the same way that bricks don't.

These words, describing the arrival of the Vogon starships in The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy, will do very well to describe Michael Jordan in his pomp. He hung in the air in much the same way that people don't.

There is a basketball term that was more or less invented for Jordan: hang-time. It was described with sober seriousness, basketball being a serious pursuit: you have to tripleteam Jordan when playing defense against him, because of

his great hang-time. The term refers to the length of time that Jordan is able to remain suspended at the apex of his jump. So try it. Try to measure the hang-time of yourself. or a brick. It doesn't work. does it? There is no such thing as hang-time. You go up, you come down.

Slow dissolve to Chicago, in June 1993. Final seconds of a National Basket Association finals game between Chicago Bulls, otherwise known as Team Jordan, and the Phoenix Suns. A steal: give it to Michael The polished, sweatanointed dome of the brown head, the arachnoid limbs, the charge into the heart of the defence; the fake, the other fake,

the soaring leap.
"Sir" Charles Barkley, his chief opponent, gave him a shove as he took off. The blow, sweetly-timed, twisted Jordan round through 180 degrees in the air. He was out of control, giddy, off balance, uncertain of his exact location.

Well, he should have been, but, soaring backwards, he reached up to plop the ball nonchalantly into the basket before landing in a sprawl of limbs. Up he got, to take the free throw for Barkley's foul: the ball hit nothing but net.

Grace, skill and the most colossal will to win. In short, the complete package. Now Jor-dan has retired and the question must be asked: will we ever see his like again? The chances are pretty remote. How many Bradmans have

we had in cricket? How many Pelés have we had in football? How many Muhammad Alis have we had in life? We must put Jordan in that category. In this country, we don't really understand basketball, we only really know about the Jordan as a cultural and fiscal phenomenon. His impact on the United States economy has been estimated at \$10 billion.



Hang-time: Jordan makes one of his trademark leaps, above, and, right, practises his batting during an unsuccessful switch to baseball

States, living proof that Everything in America is All Right. How can there be anything wrong with a society that pro-duces Michael "Air" Jordan? Car registration M AIR J. A

nickname invented not by his clamorous public but by the company whose plimsoils he wears. Perhaps the most recognisable face on the planet but in this country we know

nothing about the player.

And in sport, truth is only found when the ball is live. Back to Chicago in 1993. Jordan was 30 then. The sainted image had been tainted with stories of his taste for highstakes golf. Chicago had just lost game three to Sir Charles's boys. Jordan was

criticised for trying too hard. He was tired. He was taking too much on. He had lost his ists sharpened up their obitu-

Come game four, with the wrong-way basket and so on. Jordan scored 55 points out of 111. Phil Westphal, the opposing coach, said that he wasn't surprised. "I'm amazed, but I'm not surprised." He added significantly: "He inflicted his will on us.™

Jordan transformed American basketball from a game struggling to rise from its recent sleazy past into the hottest property in American sport nd, therefore, in world sport. The introduction of professional basketball at the Olympic Games - the Dream Team was an aspect of the Jordan

Jordan did not rise to prominence with his wit and wisdom. He tended to utter appropriate role-model banalities, but al-

ways with perfect manners, airy charm. No, it was only when the ball was live that you

got the measure of the man. George Best's marker was taken off, according to Best's pal, Paddy Crerand, "suffer-ing from twisted blood". But has there ever in sport been a worse job than marking Jordan? Nick Anderson, of Orlando Magic, described his own experience. "You been to hell before? You don't want to go."

ordan even managed to pull off every superstar's impossible goal: coming back Jordan took 18 months off to try to be a baseball player, having gone as far as he could, he said, in basketball. After all, he had led Chicago to three successive NBA titles, the third in that June of 1993. It seems that Jordan

found baseball failure oddly therapeutic. In March 1995, he rejoined Chicago Bulls. And once again, Team Jordan won the NBA championship three times in a row. Then came the dispute between team owners and players and Jordan, not wishing to let down the boys. waited until the deal was struck before announcing his retirement a graceful exit.

A decent chap — but the hell with decent chaps. In sport, it is action that fires the imagination. Hang-time is an illusion based on extraordinary athleticism. Let us relish the realities. Trade-mark move: the no-look pass. In basketball, more than most ball games, you read intentions by reading eyes. Jor-dan could and often did pass while looking in the opposite direction. Another trade-mark move: fake right, go right,

Vignette: Chicago against Utah Jazz, NBA Finals 1997. Last second of the game, Jordan with the ball. The defense triple-teamed him, to stop the inevitable Jordan charge. Instead, the utterly unexpected flip to Steve Kerr, who scored and settled the champion-

Jordan celebrates after the Bulls' defeat of the Utah Jazz to clinch the 1998 NBA championship, his last appearance on a basketball court

CAN BASKETBALL

Vignette two: NBA final 1998, same championship, same situation. Same result, different route. Jordan crashed through the lot to score. It was his last touch in professional basketbali.

An American asked if I en-

joyed my time in Chicago. Sure I did, it's always great to see sport played at that level. "You mean that level above the ground? Yes. Jordan could leap far above the earth. And stay there. Hang time, it's all about hang-time.

with the electric starter on his

his huge 660cc machine hav-

ing broken, he had to contend

with kick-starting it. Desper-ately weakened, he had to pull

worse for the rigours of their

epic adventure, rested along-

sale Captain Dave Mackay.

their commanding officer, and

Sergeant John Bangs, their me-

chanic, back at their Woolwich

base this week, it was time to

reflect. "I don't think we could

have done anything differently," Mackay said. "We are disappointed, but we are proud of

what we achieved. It was an ex-

perience we will remember for

So, too, with a modicum of

luck, will John Deacon, Brit-

ain's most experienced Dakar hand. In his lifth rally, Deacon

was in eighth place overall af-ter the eleventh stage yesterday from Timbuktu to Nema. The

rally ends on Sunday and those

who make it to Dakar will have

the satisfaction of knowing that

they have taken on the forces of

nature -- and won.

the rest of our lives."

out at the next check point. As both riders, none the

HOW MICHAEL JORDAN HIT THE HEIGHTS With 29,227 points Jordan is the third highest scorer in 169A bistory behind Kassem Abdel-Jabber and Wift Chambertain and holds the recor He was voted the MBA's most valuable player five times (1988, 1991 He won the NBA championship six times with Chicago Balls (1992, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 1998) and on each occasion be wasvoted

He was voted NBA rookle of the year in 1984-85. ad a record 63 polats in a play

MOTOR RACING

Walkinshaw keeps charge of Arrows

TOM WALKINSHAW has hung on to control of his Arrows Formula One team with backing from a Nigerian prince and a leading City finance house. The team was thought to be a target for sale, possibly to German bidders.

However. Walkinshaw announced yesterday that he was forming a new consortium with Prince Malik Ado Ibrahim and Morgan Grenfell Private Equity, which will value the Arrows business at £110 million. Walkinshaw retains 25 per cent of the business as well as the chairman-

ship.
The deal means that Arrows. with around 200 jobs, will stay in Great Britain, while the parmership brings City money into a business that is traditionally dominated by sponsorship from cigarette

companies. Arrows was one of the few teams without a tobacco sponsor, but it relied heavily on Danka, an electronics business in the United States. Danka ran into financial probiems last year, leaving Walkin-

shaw to seek sponsorship. The relationship also brings an intriguing new personality into Formula One in Prince Malik. The prince, 38, is the third son of a Nigerian tribal king and was educated in Britain. He has become a leading player in Nigerian telecommunications, has brokered the deal for Proton, of Malaysia. to buy the Lotus cars business in Britain and was apparently the inspiration behind the Arr-

He said: "This partnership will provide long-term viabil-ity for a team with extraordinary untapped potential."

Britons' desert adventure ends

CLUB Soldes Austria Victorial Obergungi 80 100 Good Open Powder Fair Open Powder Fine Open Powder Snow 20 79 Fair 50 200 Good 20 70 Good 105 125 Good Open Vened Alba d'Musa **Italy** Cervina 45 160 Good Hard Powder Fine 3 50 90 Good Open Powder Good T Coruma Norway Gerb Switzerland Crans Montana 60 60 Good Open Varied Fair 17 20 65 Good 45 135 Good 65 240 Good 60 100 Good 15 145 Good 30 90 Good Open Varied
Coen Powder
Open Powder
Some Powder
Open Powder
Clased Varied St Montz Verber Villars United States 60 83 Good Open Varied Fine 8 77 85 Good Open Varied Cloud 1 Aspen Deer Valley

SNOW REPORTS

IN THE desert, small headaches become huge, virtually insurmountable problems. With birds of prey circling overhead, mere survival becomes a victory in itself. At times such as these, it does not matter that you are a military man, highly trained and superbly fit. In the desert, even men of iron can be reduced to straw. The Dakar Rally takes no prisoners.

It was with a keen sense of anticipation and, they thought. unquenchable optimism that Darren Bidwell and Paul Gower left Granada, in Spain, at the start of this year's Dakar Raily. Ahead of them lay 5.600 miles across some of the touchest terrain on earth, but they believed that they could do it. Less than a week later, they were out of the rally, beaten

but not broken by the sands. Bidwell, like his team-mate. a bombardier in the Royal Artillery and a member of The Flying Gunners, the regiment's motorcycle display team, was the first to go - and his downfall was caused by The Dakar Rally is an unforgiving taskmaster. Mel Webb reports

nothing more crucial than a lost petrol cap. He was preparing to embark on the fifth leg of the rally, a 390-mile stage between Bir Mogrein to Atar in Mauritania, and was queueing patient-

ly for fuel when, without warning, the fuel tanker decamped and headed for the rally-supporting helicopters. What had been an organised queue became a disorganised rabble and, in the hullaballoo, Bidwell lost his fuel cap. He was understandably un-

willing to bodge the job and an appeal to porrow a cap from two riders who were already out of the event fell on unsympathetically stony ground. By the time that Bidwell located a spare cap, he was lagging be-hind the four-wheel-drive vehicles. Faced by the prospect of having his air filter and his lungs filled with dust, he tried to accelerate past them, but

succeeded only in taking a tumble from his KTM. It was the beginning of the end.

He was still in the race when night fell, but had 65 miles of dunes to cover. Short of energy and time, he reluctantly had to accept that, for him, the race was probably over. A night in the dunes was the only option and he watched as the sun came up and the buzzards came to call. Bidwell was eventually res-

cued, leaving Gower as the team's standard-bearer, but within 24 hours his pilgrimage had come to an end as well. During the 285 miles between Atar and Tidjikja, he hit a huge, half-hidden rock. He took a tumble, but just as damaging was the fact that he frac-tured a fuel line. The plucky Gower tried to

press on, but was becoming more and more dehydrated. which led to more falls and.

حكدان ريمل

ows deal.

Rushden goalkeeper arrives at Elland Road via Las Vegas

Feuer relishes his unexpected spell in the limelight

By RICHARD HOBSON

IAN FEUER is one member of the Rushden and Diamonds side who will not be star-struck by the bright lights and packed stands at Elland Roadtonight. After a childhood mingling in the company of A-list celebrities, an evening with Lucas Radebe and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is imlikely to provoke an outbreak of

goosepimples.

Jet-skiing with Dizna Ross on the Queen of Motown's pri-vate water near Lake Tahoe remains just one memory of his ormative years in the United States, yet, if the lifestyle of his Las Vegas youth seems to be a world away from an FA Cup hird-round replay against leeds United in the cold of Yorkshire, then Reuer has no regrets about taking the fami-ly name into another branch of the entertainment industry. He has quite an act to iollow. Ron. his father, Ron, is a keyboard player who lined up in backing bands for Ross, Elvis Presley and Paul Anka and now makes records of his own. Rusty. his mother, trod the boards as a showgirl on

the biggest stages in Vegas, helping to open evenings for he likes of Frank Sinatra and ammy Davis Jr. She now -uns her own agency. For eight years, Debbie, a ister, was better known as Mrs Mickey Rourke, having narried and divorced one of iollywood's most charismatic anctors, the star of 914 Weeks.

· · · · · lis second sister owns an art allery in Rodeo Drive, Bevery Hills, while his two brothers ay lay in the rock group Fifth Di-Feuer, Z7, said: "It was a retty nomadic childhood be-

ause, when I was on vacation ake me with him on tours ith people like Diana Ross, o I got to see a lot of America.

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in an 1882 1. ""

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At that age, I did not realise people like Sinatra were major stars. They were just people

"The problem with being a kid in Las Vegas is that everything is geared towards people over 18. Otherwise, there is not a lot to do. Basically, everybody used to have house parties and I suppose where Diana Ross was concerned the house was bigger than usual. I have a photograph at home of me as a kid in a wetsuit with her in the background. I used to like going around because of the terrific barbecues and

Despite actrieving a reasonable level of competence on the piano, his own ambitions soon



swung towards football. Showtime came to mean televised coverage of English football in bars. The family moved to California when he was 15 and soon after joining Los Angeles Salsa — a football club, not a try his luck in Europe.

Five years in Belgium preceded his arrival at West Ham United, but he struggled to break into the first team and moved to Luton Town. He left Kenilworth Road last summer for New England Revolution. the Major League Soccer side based in Boston, only to lose his place when Walter Zenga. the former Italy goalkeeper, Rushden had injuries to

both their goalkeepers and

offered a one-month loan

while he sought a bigger club

in England. "I did not realise how much I love this country until I went back to the States," he said.

The loan expires at the weekend, just as the Conference side are enjoying their own period of fame and Feuer. outstanding in the 0-0 draw against Leeds at Nene Park, is sifting through offers to stay in England. If nothing else, he has inherited his parents

sense of fiming.

Liten though the Northamp-tonshire club declined to accept its full entitlement of 4,300 tickets, about 3,000 supporters will make the 150-mile journey north tonight, nearly half of them in 30 official coaches. That is still 400 more ance and David Joyce, the secretary, has heard talk of little else in the villages of Rushden and Irthlingborough.

Brian Talbot, the head coach, is playing down the prospects of his team, despite the fact that Leeds may have to press Radebe into service ahead of schedule after a knee injury because of a shortage of

Jonathon Woodgate is also very doubtful with a thigh strain, leaving David O'Leary, the Leeds manager, with only er, David Wetherall. "I don't know when our inju

ry jinx is going to let up and leave us alone," O'Leary said, "but we've an exciting cup-tie and we've got to show that we can cope with this crisis that has hit us." Talbot said: "Leeds should

have too much class and ability, but, if we can keep them out, we might get something on the counter." he said. Feuer has a less tactical approach. "Let's just go out there

and enjoy it," he said. "It's go-

ing to be a great game."



Talbot is playing down Rushden's chances of staging an FA Cup upset against Leeds

Rusedski goes back to gym after early loss

ANOTHER week, another tournament and another firstround loss - it was not quite the start to the year that Greg Rusedski had in mind. Yesterday at the Sydney International, it was Gustavo Kuerten's turn to put the Great Britain No 2's nose out of joint, surviving a first-set pasting by Rused-ski before winning 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Kuerten is known as a giantkiller, coming from nowhere to win the French Open, his first tournament title, two years ago. For the next year, he faded from view, but towards the end of last summer he found his touch again to win a further two titles.

Even so, Rusedski could have done without another setback so close to the Australian Open - not that he was letting on. "There's really nothing to be down about," he said. "Kuerten just played a great

After his defeat last week to Bernd Karbacher, the world No 124, Rusedski is now somewhat short of match-practice before the start of the first grand-slam tournament of the season — and Rusedski is a man who needs matches under his belt. Playing eight of the final ten weeks of last season, he was getting better and better, a run that led to his first Mercedes Super Nine title, beating Pete Sampras in the final of the Paris indoor event. Give the man a holiday, however, and it takes a long time to get back up to speed.

The loss has sent Rusedski scurrying back to the gym and the practice courts in an attempt to kick-start the competitive juices. Having dominated the first set, he began to wilt as the match wore on and he is determined to be physically sharper before moving on to Melbourne.

"It was one of those matches where I played better than last week but just lost," he said. Rusedski was in good company as Pat Rafter, the US Open champion, also fell at the first hurdle. He, too, improves only through sheer hard graft. Beaten by Lleyton Hewitt, the young pretender to Rafter's po-sition of Australia 's favourite son, Rafter was outplayed 7-6, 6-I. "I was definitely underdone," he confessed.

What awaits Petr Korda in Melbourne is anybody's guess. More and more players are expressing anything from concern to outright anger that Korda has not been suspended after he provided a positive drugs test at Wimbledon lass year. Rumours continue to fly and a players' boycott of the Open has been mooted. While that is unlikely, they will certainly have their say at a pretournament meeting at the



Rusedski: bad start to year

weekend. Korda, who looked nervous and edgy last week in Qatar, has announced that he will definitely defend his Australian Open title and, still proclaiming his innocence, will say his piece at the players

"I will stand in front of the players, I do not have any problem to stand in front of anybody," he said. "I wanted to play in Australia because I haven't done anything. Why should I hide? I want to show the world I am still capable of playing tennis and I want to defend my title as well as I

Keane hopes to secure a new contract in the near future

United dampen Keane's desire

ROY KEANE, the Manchester United midfield player, could be disappointed in his attempts to secure a swift resolution to the subject of his future at Old Trafford. Keane. whose contract expires at the end of the 1999-2000 season, has expressed his desire to arrange another, long-term deal immediately. Keane is also believed to be demanding a pay rise, taking his wages to around £40,000 a week

However, Martin Edwards, the United chief executive, confirmed yesterday that the club did not want to alter its usual procedure over new contract negotiations. United open talks with players no more than 12 months before their contract is due for renewal.

By Stephen Wood and Russell Kempson

Roy still has 18 months to run on his present contract," Edwards said. "I am surprised. that there is speculation already and there are no thoughts at the moment to bringing these talks forward.
The timing is very impor-

tant, because we feel that contract discussions can be disruptive. We want players to concentrate on football and the proper time to sit down with Roy will be the summer." Keane has said that if the situation is not sorted out to his satisfaction, he could leave the club in the summer of 2000. That would mean that, with Keane a free agent, United would receive nothing if he was transferred to another club. If United met Keane's financial demands, however, their wage structure would be

The FA Premier League is waiting for United to send it a full report into events on Sunday, when a power failure delayed the kick-off of the FA Carling Premiership match with West Ham United by 45 minutes. Old Trafford staff have begun inquiries into the incident, although they do not anticipate completing delibera-tions before the weekend. They have been told already that the North Stand cannot

broken, a risk that they are not

prepared to take.

proved that it is safe for supporters.

Chelsea's determination to hang on to their lead in the FA Carling Premiership stepped up a gear yesterday when it was revealed that they have made an enquiry for Gilles de Bilde, the Belgium striker, who plays for PSV Eindhoven. Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea manager, is keen to add to his squad after a series of injuries has left him with a lack of cov-

er, especially up front. Chelsea would prefer the move to be on a loan basis until the end of the season, with an option to buy if it proves successful, but PSV are more interested in a permanent deal and are seeking about £3.5 million for De Bilde.

Rios pulls out of Auckland event

TENNES: Marcelo Rios, the men's world No 2, dropped out of the Heineken Open in Auckland yesterday, just 46 minutes into his first-round match. The Chilean, seeded No I, suffered a recurrence of the back injury that troubled him at the end of last year and his preparation for the Australian Open, the first grand-slam tournament of the year, which starts next week, is in jeopardy. Rios won the first set of his match with Andre Pavel, of Romania, 7-5, but his service was broken early in the second game, when he failed to chase a ball on break point. and he withdrew to the dressing-room to receive treatment. Rios has never won a grand-slam title.

K Club the Ryder choice

■ GOLF: The European Ryder Cup committee is expected to confirm this week that the 2005 Cup will be hosted by the K Club in Straffan, Co Kildare. The K Club will not receive official confirmation of the decision until a press conference on Friday, but a source said that other clubs in Ireland had been told that they would not be chosen for the biennial event between Europe and the United States. Jefferson Smurfit plc.

Smethwick sign Wasim

EXECUTE: Smethwick, of the Birmingham Premier League, who usually attract around 100 spectators for home matches. have signed Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, as their overseas professional. John Lumb, the Smethwick chairman, said: "He will have an enormous impact on the league and the city with its strong multi-racial community

Africans go for glory

swap distances in a bid to break each other's world indoor records at the BUPA Indoor Grand Prix in Birmingham on February 14. Komen, of Kenya, runs in the 2,000 metres and Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, will attempt to break Komen's

Henman's London date

TENNIS: Tim Henman, the world No 7, has joined Greg Rusedski, his British compatriot, in confirming that he wi play in the Guardian Direct Cup in Battersea Park next month. Other leading players taking part in the ATP tournament, from February 22 to 28, include Richard Krajicek. a former Wimbledon winner, and Cedric Pioline, of France.

Murdoch is fan of Blatter proposal

ADING officials of Uefa. European football union, ected the plan to stage the orld Cup every two years sterday, saying that it would ie plan, put forward by Seppatter, the president of Fifa, a receive support. however, ivn a more unlikely source—pert Murdoch.

Murdoch

Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of News rooration, the parent commy of The Times, was full of thusiasm for the suggestion. My first reaction to that is "My first reaction to that is a very good idea," Murdo-speaking at a forum on idia in the 21st century, said. . think the World Cup is a at international event and re's no reason why it hald not be staged every

'If we don't have a World p between countries every) years, maybe it would be ht to have, in between the adrennial World Cup. 2

rid Cup of clubs." Te added: "Certainly, footl is so strong and so popuin so many parts of the rld that we should see jor international competimore than every four us. I would agree with

lowever, in a statement. la "not only objected to the a, but also condemned the y the project was presented. hout prior consultation of of the relevant bodies".

Ueta and Lennart Johans son its president, has been critical of Blatter's plan since he floated it last weekend. Its six top officials are of the opinion that the project would produce negative consequences in sporting, medical and commercial contexts and have a damaging effect on domestic corapetitions".

Blatter said that staging the

World Cup every two years would boost national teams, which he argued had been threatened by proposals for a breakaway league of top European clubs. Uefa countered that by say-

ing "there are other ways" of strengthening national teams and soccer associations. Its presidential board "noted with regret signs that the project could be a matter of personal

Fifa's Strategic Studies Committee which can propose changes to international compentions and which is chaired by Blatter, is likely to discuss the idea this month Fifa has taken a step to-

wards clearing the way to a biennial World Cup by announcing a plan to harmonise the international football calendar. A meeting will be held in Zurich on Friday with a view to reschedule continental fournaments, such as the European championship, the Copa America and the African Nations' Cup, which, at present, are held in different

Goram goes to Fir Park

BY PHIL GORDON

ANDY GORAM, the former Scotland goalkeeper, listened to the voice of reason for once in his turbulent career yesterday and joined Motherwell, the Scottish Premier League club, until the end of the season. Goram. 34, had been

offered a short-term contract by Billy Davies, the Fir Park manager, just two months ago, but resisted in order to pursue an adventure with Brian Landrup his former Rangers colleague, at FC Copenhagen. The Dan-ish club ultimately passed over the talented but tempestuous Goram. who earned 42 caps for Scotland until his walkout on the eve of the World Cup finals last June and subsequent re-

tional football. "I will not be using Motherwell as a stepping stone." Goram insisted yesterday, "There is a verbal agreement for a further two-year contract if things go well and, hope-

tirement from interna-

fully, they will." Goram, who spent seven years at Ibrox, spent two months at Sheffield United, of the Nationwide League first division earlier in the season.

Oldham lose chairman

be reopened until they have

IAN STOTT resigned yesterday as chairman of Oldham Athletic, the Nationwide League second division club, in the wake of his claims that they were considering a merger with two other clubs in the

Stott was reported last week to have opened talks with the chairmen of Bury and Roch-dale, with a view to forming one club — possibly called Manchester North End — in the miliennium. Terry Robinson, the chairman of Bury, and David Kilpatrick, the chairman of Rochdale, both played down the idea and, after an emergency board meet-ing at Oldham, Stott resigned. David Brierley, the vice chairman, replaces him, with Stott remaining on the board as

Brierley's deputy. Stott, who took over as chairman in 1982, admitted that he had put Oldham in a difficult position. He said: "I felt I had

By Stephen Wood inadvertently embarrassed

the club to such an extent that it would be in everyone's interests if I stepped down."

The story brought an in-stant backlash from Oldham supporters and Brierley was eager to set the record straight on the issue. "I can assure everyone that we have no intention of seeking a merger with any other clubs — now or in the future." Stott will now concentrate

on his attempts to become the new chairman of the Football Association. He declared his availability last week, although recent events at Oldham will hardly cement his chances of succeeding Keith Wiseman, the former chairman. The FA Council will decide on a new man at the end of the season.

Arnar Gunnlaugsson, the Bolton Wanderers striker, has

prompting Colin Todd, his manager, to accuse him of acting out of "pure greed". After months of uncertainty, Gunnlaugsson, the Iceland international, has turned down a new contract to stay with the first division club. There has been interest in the player, who has scored 14 goals this season, from Leicester City and Nottingham Forest, the FA Carling Premiership clubs, although Bolton's valuation of around £3.5 million could put any suitors off.
Walter Smith, the manager

handed in a transfer request,

of Everton, is considering recalling John Spencer from his loan spell at Motherwell, the Scottish Premier League club. Spencer accused Smith of not giving him a chance to prove himself at Goodison Park, but Everton are struggling to score and Smith needs all possible options available to him



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Making the most of a worthless exercise

Michael Henderson reports from Melbourne on the merit of

England's successive one-day wins

THE triangular one-day com-petition, in which England are pitted against Australia and Sri Lanka, is of no great signifi-cance. It is a bloated enter-prise, which will not be resolved until two of the teams play off against each other in three "finals" next month. They love this sort of thing here because it brings in sacks of dollars, but that does not

mean it is important. So far as England are concerned — and the others as well — the only relevance it may have is as an indicator. with the World Cup four months away, but that is a bit of a red herring. The World Cup will be played in England, where pitches are different to Australia at the height of summer. It is really no sort of indicator at all.

The benefits that England can accrue from this unnecessarily long tournament are those that normally come from winning matches. It is better than losing them, so. although David Lloyd and his players are pleased to have won their first two games, beat-ing Australia and Sri Lanka in the humidity of Brisbane, there is no danger of them thinking that they have done anything worth writing home

It gives the players the chance to work together and Lloyd, the England coach, knows that there is plenty of work to do, particularly on their fielding. "Mobility in the field is vitally important," Lloyd said. "We want people who can get to the ball quickly, get it in quickly and knock the stumps out of the ground. Fielding in one-day cricket is hard work and requires tremendous concentration. We are getting better, but there is rings of possibility. more to do.

on Sri Lanka's go-slow bowling policy on Sunday night. when Ranatunga, their captain, seemed to be intent on trying to prevent the England batsmen from gaining any momentum.

"If they slow down the tempo," Lloyd said, "then we must pick it up. We have to combat what they are trying to do." Evidently, there is not much love lost between the England coach and the folk who run the Sri Lanka team.

The first victory in Brisbane owed a lot to Alan Mullally's bowling, the second to Neil Fairbrother's batting. Six months ago, neither man would have put much money on the likelihood of his playing in the World Cup. Now they will both be involved even if, in Fairbrother's case, Graham Thorpe regains full match-fitness before the end of next month, when England must announce their 15-man

It is a big "if". Privately, England have given up hope of Thorpe declaring his availability. His back complaint requires a much longer peri-od of recuperation than the next chapter of the England story will allow. Better by far that he has a good long rest and comes back into the Test team fully recovered and hungry for cricket. He has played a lot of it in the past ten years.

The break may do him good. Fairbrother's Test days are hehind him, but his contribution to the one-day team has not been finally measured. So far, with innings of 47 and 67 not out, he has justified his recall and, as Lloyd said of the Thorpe's "shadow", "he is now

the man in possession".

Most of the players "in possession" will remain there. England may not know the precise composition of the team that will start the World Cup, there has been too much chopping and changing in the past year for anybody to state it with conviction, but something is taking shape, if only because some players have been banished to the outer

Nevertheless, Lloyd would not be drawn strange that Alistair Brown, the hard-hitting Surrey opener, is no longer a contender, given the damaging nature of his batting in limited-overs cricket, but there it is.

Knight and Stewart will open, with Hick and Fairbrother to follow at four and five. and Adam Hollioake at No 6. His brother, Ben. given every chance to make an unassailable case for selection, has fall-

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Mullally and Fairbrother, below, have made the most of their opportunities to shine



en by the wayside. The problem of finding somebody to bat first wicket down is no nearer resolution. If the selectors feel that

Vince Wells, of Leicestershire, is a genuine contender for that position, then they should sit down for a long time in a darkened room. Nor is it entirely clear what Mark Alleyne, the Gloucestershire captain, is doing here. These men have been

around for years. To what do they owe this sudden promotion, other than being "good sorts", who can bowl a bit?

India make hard work of victory By Our Sports Staff

NAPIER (India won toss): India beat New Zealand by two wickets

INDIA made heavy work of a modest target in the second one-day international yesterday of their series against New Zealand, but they managed to eke out a narrow win with one ball to spare. The vic-

tory that brought the five-match series level at 1-1. Chasing a disappointing New Zealand total of 213, Sachin Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly gave India a fine start, plundering 50 from the first eight overs. However, the loss of Tendulkar, caught at slip off Nash for 23, slowed

Ganguly had followed for 38, wickets fell regularly. New Zealand, indebted to a

second-wicket partnership of 76 between Horne and McMillan that kept their innings on track, suffered the loss of Geoff Allott from their attack after bowling six balls, but Vettori's careful spin bowling kept them in the hunt. Run-outs cost the home side dearly, with five batsmen per-

ishing to that manner. India, who lost the Test series 1-0, were relieved to return to winning form. even if they were taken to the final over. Eight runs were required from it, but a streaky four by Kumble off the third ball virtually settled the issue.

SCOREBOARD FROM NAPIER

CZ Hama nun out 15 SL Verbr nun out 15 GR Laman at Munga b Tendakor 12

Total (49.3 overs)____213

50%LNG Smath 9-345-0 Presad 52-14-0 Kumble (0-0-38-1, Smgh 6-0-33-1, Tendukar 8-3-0-54-3, Ganguly 2-0-13-0 Choppa 3-1-27-0

S C Ganguly c Parore b Nach
S R Tenduliar c Young b Nash.
R Drawd c Parore b Vetfori
TM Adranuddin c Parore b Larser
A Jadeja run out
R R Singh c Home b Vetfori.
† N R Monga not out. † N R Monga not out...
J Smath run out

J Srinath run out 7
N Chopra run out 7
N Chopra run out 7
N Kumble not out 6
Extras (b 1, ib 4, w 2, rib 2) 6 Total (8 wkts, 49.5 overs).214 B K V Prasad did not bat FALL OF WICKETS 1-50, 2-81, 3-91, 4-127, 5-152, 6-164, 7-182, 8-204 BOWLING Cams 10-0-37-0; Allott 22-0-21-0; McMatan 0.4-0-5-0; Nash 95-0-43-2; Harns 10-3-27-0; Larsen 10-1-44-1; Vetton 7-1-30-2;

Umpires RS Dunne and CE King.

Auswers from page 38 PINDA

(b) The ground-nut or peanut. "In the valleys of the Red River of Louisiana and Texas are to be found negroes who use many African words, the inheritance of their ancestors. A white man is a 'buckra'. A ground-nut (peanut) is a 'pinda'." RICASSO

(b) The part of the blade of a sword that is next to the hill. The Italian word. The use of the ricasso to obtain a better grip on the sword had led to the introduction of loops, rings and bars attached to the nilt. ОСОТІЦЮ

(b) A spiny shrub. Fouquiera splendens, of the family Fouquieraceae, native to the north-western United States and Mexico, and bearing narrow inconspicuous leaves and panicles of red flowers. American Spanish diminutive of ocote, which is a resinous Mexican pine. "You know the ocotillo." Ben said, pointing out the cactus that looks like five or six spiny, 10-foot pieces of rope snaking up into the air." REVERDIE

(b) In medieval French lyric poetry: a song which celebrates the reappearance of spring. The Dark Days are By. In March 1940, he uses the simplest and barest of words to convey the mood of a traditional reverdie."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1, Qxg6! and if 1.... hxg6: 2. Rh8 is mate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

The female prerogative

BBC2: \$00mm

The theme of this second report on sex in the animal world is fussy females. Since they bear the burden of breeding it is not unreasonable that they should be choosy about their partners. To illustrate should be choosy about their partners. To must the this proposition the cameras travel to Costa Rica, Uganda, the Mediterranean and Papua New Guinea, providing oppious and varied examples of how females select their mate. For female royal terms the male has to prove himself adept at catching the fish that will fill mounts, while male weaver birds must be good nest builders. But the most demanding of female birds is the long-tailed mannakin. She makes her prospective partners dance for hours before deciding which one of more

Wing and a Prayer Channel 5, 8.00pm

The legal drama deservedly returns for a second series, soon to lose one of its main characters but series, soon to lose one or its main characters that bolstered by the arrival of two new ones. Curiously, since Matthew Hall, who created the show and writes several of the episodes, is a former barrister, the one weakness of the show is the artificiality of the courtroom dialogue. Real witnesses are seldom as expansive and outspoken as they are here; though this undoubtedly adds to the exchanges. But the jugging of the lawyers professional and private lives is as deft as ever and gives the narrative pace texture and variety. As for professional and private lives is as our as ever and gives the narrative pace, exture and variety. As for personnel changes, Kate Buffery's Amanda Dankwith, QC, the head of Salthouse Chambers, is about to vacate the post to take a fraud case in the smoke. This opens the way for a newtomer, played by Maureen Beattie, while Dominic Maiham joins the cast as a younger lawyer.

Mersey Blues BBC2, 9.00pm

Jenny Crowther's documentary about Merseyside Police has already made news for an incident in which a senior detective filmed for the series is arrested and charged with corruption. But there is no hint of this in the opening programme, which shows a force fighting an unfull battle against organised crime against a background of financial

Sound Stories: Fends Corner Radio 3; 11.00am You would be arrazed how many people hate Sound Stories: they get in a terrible lather about it. Some complain of the celebrity presenters (this week Richard Baker), others that the programme

trivialises the music by being too concerned with the personalines involved. Rot and balderdash, I enjoy these music-and-word pactures and the present run of programmes, focusing on feuds in music, today considers the spats between Berlioz and his former teacher, Cherubini, the latter being the doyen of the Paris music scene at the time and therefore the self-professed protector of rigid ortho-doxy in music, something Berlioz was quite deter-mined to overthrow. The choice of music today nice-ly illustrates the differing approaches of the two.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30cm Zoe Ball 9.00 Sirion Mayo 12.00pm Kevin Greening 2.00 Marik Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamact: The Evening Session 10.00 Moyle Update with Mark Kermode 10.10 John Pael 12.00cm Gilles Peterson 2.00 Citve Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up in Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm Jimmy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnne Waker 7.00 Nock Barrackough 8.00 Miles Harding 9.00 Fision Andy Peebles Soul Show (8/13) 10.00 Route 86 Revisited with Nick Barrackough (6/7) 10.30 Richard Alfrison 12.00mm Kairing Leskanich 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breeklast with Nick Robinson and Victoria Derbyshire 9.60 Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday Navis with Annie Webster 1.00 Ruscue and Co.4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and Jame Garvey 7.00 News Exita 7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night Coverage of the night's action. Plus, the National Lottery draw 10.00 Littlejohn 11.00 Late Night Live with Brian Hayes 1.00am Up All Night.

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00am Nick Abbot 4.00 Harnet Scott 6.45 Mark Forrest 10.00 Richard Allen 1.00am James Mamti 4.30 Jaremy Clark

TALK RADIO 6.00mm Big Boys Breekdast with David Banks and Nick Fentati 9.00 Scott Chisnolm 12.00pm Justice with Jacobs 1.00 Anna Raebum 3.00 Peter Deeley's Divetime 5.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 James Whale 1.00mm Ian Cotins

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny, Includes Chopin (Nocturne in E flat, Op 9 No 2); Dvorak (The Water Gobin); Franz Waxman (Carmen Fantasy) 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Gabrieli (Canzon a 7), Haydin (Pano Trio in C, H XV 27); Faure (Petreas et Meisande), Granados (Los requiebros, Goyescas); Michael Haydin (Horn Concerto in D), Tcharkovsky (Romeo and Judiet Fantasy Overture)

Beethoven (violin Sociala in A minor, Dp 23); Schoenberg (Phantasy, Op 47); Breihmis (Violin Sonata No 2 in A. Op 100) 2.00 The BBC Orchestras Utster Orchestra under Charles Hazlewood and Nicholas Braithwaile, Clio Gould, wohr 4.00 Chorel Evensioning Live from Manchester Carriedral. Organist and master of the choristers Christopher Stokes. Sub-organist Matthew Owens

Rocco Forte features in the first of a new series, Blood on the Carpet (BBC2, 950pm)

crisis. Nearly £20 million has to be trimmed from the budget in three years. For the Drug Squad, the focus of tonight's episode, this means no money for the overtime which inevitably results from short staffing. The officers agree to "do it for the Queen", to work the extra hours for nothing. But this may not last and one detective says morale is the lowest he has known. It is significant that the new head of the squad has little drug busting experience but a reputation for looking after the pennies.

Blood on the Carpet

A series about business battles gets off to a ranting start by recalling Granada's acrimonious takeover of the Forte hotel and catering empire. The film is enriched by extensive interviews with the two leading players. Sir Rocco Forte is the son of Sir Charles, who started with a single milk har and was still guiding the company in his eighnies. Against the gentlemanty grouse shooting Rocco is pitched Gerry Robinson, from an Irish working class background and known for ruthless cost-cutting from which even too managers are not safe. Robinson and Forte make the battle personal by publicly trading insults before Robinson surges to victory. The film charts the effect on the Rotte company (many senior people broke down in tears) company (many senior people broke down in tears) and Rocco's comeback in the hotel business.

Murder, Magic and Medicine Radio 4. 11.00am"

Recently Woman's Hour told a disturbing tale of a Recently Woman's Hour told a disturbing tale of a man who had a sore throat and bought one of the proprietory treatments from a chemist. He became addicted and spent vast sums of money buying large quantities of the stuff from pharmacists all over the country, carting the haut home in plastic carrier bags. With that in mind, this new series is among other things, a salutary lesson in just what we are taking in when we swallow routine medicines: Migraine? One cure comes from a mould that killed 40,000 people in the 10th century.

Most successful medicines originate from plants Most successful medicines originate from plants and the series starts by tracing the point at which herbalism and modern western techniques began to take different paths.

Peter Barnard

1202

7.30 ORY 2.15

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlock 7.95
My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20 Off the Shelt:
Siles Marrier 8.35 One Planet 8.00 World News 9.06 Britain
Now 8.20 World . Ranking 9.30 Sports Round-Up 10.00
Newsclesk 10.30 Sports International 12.00pm World News
12.05 Outlock 12.45 Sports International 12.00pm World News
12.05 Outlock 12.45 Sports Found-Up 1.00 Newschotr 2.00
World News 2.05 One Planet 2.30 Medician Live 3.00 World
News 3.05 Sports . Round-Up 3.15 From Our Own
Conespondent 3.30 Jazzmeiszz 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight
4.30 Multitracic X-Press, 5.00 . Europa Today 5.30 World
Business Report 5.45 Sports International 7.00 World News 7.05
One Planet 7.30 Wild Tales 7.45 Off the Stelf: Siles Marrier
8.00 Newschour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report
9.20 Britain Today 9.30 On Screen 10.00 World News 10.15
Sports Round-Up 10.30 Multitrack: X-Press 11.00 World News
11.05 Outlock 11.45 Insight 12.00am The World Today 12.30
Medician Live 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Exeryotman 3.00
Medician Live 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Exeryotman 3.00 Medidan Live 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Everyorman 3.00 The World Today 3.20 Sports Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00 are Nick Balley's Easier Breeklast. Scothing music and information updates 8.00 Herry Kelly. The Hell of Fame Hour, and favourite pieces voted for In-the Classic RM Top 300 12.00 pm Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones spins listeners' tevourite pieces of dessinati music 2.00 Concerto. Offenbach (Concerto Militaire In G. metor) 3.00 Jamie Crick Including Alternoon Romance and Continuous Classes 6.30 Newsnight. Headlines, arts news and guests introduced by John Brunning Todos Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Mozert (Simfonia Concertaire in Ellat): Beethoven (Symphony No 2 in D) 11.00 Merm at Night. Music and conversation for the early hours with Alan Merm 2.00am Concerto. Offenbach (Concerto Militaire in G. major) (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breadest Show

Concerts in D), Tchakovsky (Homeo and Juliet Fartasy Overture)

10.30 Artist of the Week: Emanuel Ax.

11.00 Sound Stories: Feuds Corner Richard Baker looks at the complex relationship between Chendrian and Berinz: See Choice

12.00pm Composer of the Week: Rimsky-Korsekov

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Adrian Bouth Hall, Burnarjaham Conservative: Stephane Gorley, wolin, John Lenehan, piano. Beethoven (Violin Sonata in A minor, Op 23); Schoenberd Phartassy. On 47): Brahms (Violin

5.00 in Time Sear Rafferty talks to Robert von Bahr of BS Records

6.00 Performance on 3 Live from the Eden Court Theatre, Inveness, introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Jezy Melsymbuk, liya tim, piano, Alesdair Nicolson (Breakdance); Rachmantirov (Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor) 8.55 News from North Britain: Virtual, by by Aff Smith. The first of live new stories from Scottend 9.15 Concert, part two.

Divorak (Symphony No 7 in D minor)

10.05 Postacript: The Red Flag and the Red Mask 10.30 Cyrti Scott (Symphonic Dance No 1). Performed by Percy Grainger and the composer, pianos 10.45 Night Waves with Laura Cumming 11.30 Jezz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the second of two programmes featuring Cleo Laine and the Alec and John Denkworth Generation Bend 12.00ans Composer of the Weeke Pouleins (r) 1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macked 1.00 Hungarian Radio Orchestra under Charles Munch 2.05 lives (The Urranswered Cuestion) 2.40 Pagarum (Violin Sonata in A minor) 3.00-5.00 Schoots: Time and Tunle 3.20 Together 3.40 Dance Workshop 4.00 EAL Dance 4.20 TBA 5.00 Sibelius (Valse Tinste) 5.30 Ponce (Prelucies)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 instone Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Yoday Rural stues, with Anna Hill 6.00 Today introduced by James Naughte and Wasted Robisson With Michigan House State 1985 (LW) Yesterday in Partiament 00 Michweek Lively conversation with the Times Libby

9.00 Michweek (Juety conversation with the Times Libby Puries and quests
9.45 (Livr) beary Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Artifut Comm Doyle Michael Williams reads part three of Martin Booth's biography (r)
10.00 Women's Hour with Jerni Murray and guests
11.00 Number, Magic and Medicine New series. Dr Michael O'Donnel investigates the roots of modern remedies. See Choice (1/6)
11.30 Choice Grentell's monologues and songs (3/4)
12.00pm (LiV) News Headilines, Shipping Forecast 12.00 [FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Trate Flawirtson and Mark Whitaker present consumer flews and investigations
1.00 The World at One Presented by Nick Clarke
1.30 Wildowsh Lonel Kelleway chairs the final of the wildire quit.

widile cuz 2.00 The Archers (r)

2.15 Attention Play: Voyages of Descent Clare Sea's tale exploring the themes of evolution and cression With James MacPherson and Robin

cleation With James MacPresson and Robin Thomson Nanated by Fenella Fielding
3.00 Gardeners' Obsettion Time John Cushnie, Bob Flowerdew and Annie Swithinbank answer questions, posed by gardeners in Comwell (t)
3.30 Tales from the Village Joel (Rozzo myestigates the religion of Legion Merie, which combines Catholicism with ancient mith (3/5) (r)
3.45 This Seeptred lete Anna Massey narrales the Norman Conquest (r)

4.00 Case Notes Special: No lessue Tracey Logan examines the laune of lentity (r)
4.30 Thicking Allowed with Polly Toynbes and guests 5.00 PM Introduced by Clare English and Eddie Mair 5.00 Str O'Crock News
6.30 Like They've Never Been Gone Mike Coleman's comedy, staming Roy Hindd and June Writfield as a showbiz couple who find tame again. With Pat Coombs and Julian Eardley (r)
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Prota Row John Wisson presents the acts programme, looking at the work of the New York painter Julian Schmabel as a new exhibition opens in Britain

programme, looking at the work of the New York peinter Julian Schristice as a new exhibition opens in Britain

7.45 Lady Sussin by Jane Austen. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (t)

8.90 Them and Us Diana Madili chairs a debate on whether Begal drugs have become so commonpiece that their use is widely accepted (3/3)

8.45 Gerry's Berr Geny Anderson reflects on like in the Pepublic of Ireland (r)

9.00 Antimate Behaving Bedity Mike Conwardine looks at enemists' deadly behaviour (4/4)

9.30 Midweek (r)

10.00 The World Tonight with Anne McKenzie

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Natus Part eight

11.00 Later Night, on 4: Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of Misery The award-winning correction Sean Lock presents his own brand of downbeat humous darly humorous account of a boy's transition to actificed in 1970s Carabridgestine (2/5)

11.30 (FM) The Cheese Shop Presents Corredly Seatches (1)

11.30 (LW) Today in Partisement

11.30 (rep) the Cheese snop Presents Cornedy stetches (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Perlament
12.00em News 12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort
Kate Harper reads part three of Alson Lurie's tale
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2: RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; RRV 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 805. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRIGIN RADIO, FM 105.6; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1088. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosensery Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and

- S James Deliver the second of th

Hospital beds? You must be off your trolley

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drama, Holby City (BBC). way Softly Softly emerged from the long-running Z Cars, the way Cheers gave birth to Frasier, and the way one Carol Vorderman show split, like an amoeba, to become two Carol Vorderman programmes and then four Carol Vorderman programmes, and then eight, then 16. Politics works in much the same way, as each of the central characters on the political stage gets a chance to make a pilot for its very own - hopefully

ratings-grabbing — series.

It's a difficult trick to pull off. The much-publicised Robin Cook soap opera, which is the latest spin off from new Labour's main storyline, merely reinforces the feeling among viewers that Downing Street has yet to get the hang of creating an appealing central character in its dramatic babies. It's quite possible that Holby

carning

City itself is a New Labour Production, since it painted a far roster picture of the NHS than Frank Dobson has been managing to do. There were no bed shortages. No freezer forries in the car park filled with the overspill from the hospital morgue, no dire shortage of nurses, no invalids sleeping on trolleys.

When, early in this opening episode, talk turned to how a donor had been located and how a team from Holby would have to fly to a hospital in Cornwall to collect the precious object, many of us were expecting surgical registrar Nick Jordan (Michael French) to return to Holby bearing a valuable bed. But it turned out to be a heart. After that Holby City, like too many medical dramas, became confused: it momentarily thought. it was part of an Open University broadcast, because we saw the

heart-transplant operation in such.

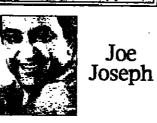
detail that medical students could

have used it to supplement their lecture notes. And so much blood! You can only assume that someone in the props department had mistakenly over-ordered the fake blood, and that the cast decided they might as well get through the stockpile as quickly as possible.

t all moves along at a steady pace and the main characters play their parts convincingly enough, but it can't help having the feel of "ER Lite" about it. This is the tragedy for shows which hit our screens at the same time as masterpieces of the genre. Pity anyone launching their sittom when Seinfeld or Larry Sanders is on air. You'd have included the brilliant Frasier on this list until last week, only now you even feel pity for the bumptious Seattle psychiatrist: it must be tough for Frasier Crane to watch Robin Cook on TV and to have to acknowledge that there is now an

REVIEW

Joe



even a bigger, vainer buffoon on the box than himself. Michael Portillo is another politi-cian trying his hand at a solo screen career, independent of the ensemble show ("Major's Madhouse") in which he first enjoyed a starring role. In Great Railway Journeys (BBC2), the former Tory Transport Minister chugged from Granada to Salamanca, showing

us en route a side of Portillo we

hadn't seen recently: a Portillo who isn't constantly pledging to stick by William Hague in his hour of need, thereby indirectly highlighting what a mess the Tory

Portillo takes the opportunity to reminds us that his Spanish father was a poet and law professor who showed his love of socialism and democracy by joining the Republi-cans in the Spanish Civil War. while at the same time showing his love for his family by refusing to carry a gun lest he accidentally kill one of his six brothers, all of whom fought for Franco. But only a cynic (not you, sir, surely!) would see this film as part of Portillo's attempt to show us that he isn't the insensitive xenophobe he is painted by his political enemies.

Twe never been in any doubt that I'm temperamentally half Spanish," he told us, screwing his face into his distant, thoughtful expression, the one one that makes

thing distasteful and is waiting for a convenient break in filming to spit it out. "I get emotional, and I have that Castilian concern about things like dignity and honour." But in order to show us that he had gained a new perspective on life since losing his seat in May 1997, he also reflected on the sacrifices that his father had to make in order to flee fascism - leaving behind his family, his job, the country he loved - and said that they put "firmly in context the setbacks that the rest of us sometimes suffer: they are as nothing. Well, all these things may be perfectly true, but who's going to believe them when it's a politician

ut there were nostalgic glimpses of the old Portillo remember shining through. Over a family lunch with his Spanish relatives, Portillo's

seven bothers. "He's saying that the middle position is the position of virtue," Michael translated for the camera, adding: "It must be a Spanish expression!" It's certainly not a British politician expression - at any rate not one that would have tripped off Portillo's tongue during his Smith Square days.

Mark Lewis's curning film, Rat (Channel 4), blended together a compendium of spooky facts about New York's rat community with a of a racoon, and when you see that you know something's wrong." But

5301 6.00am Business Breakfast (45232) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (21329) 9.00 Kilroy (T) (8609665) 9.46 The Vanessa Show (T) (5145435) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (7011329) 11.00 Real Rooms (7021706) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7928665)

11.55 News; Weather (1) (1217961) 12.00pm Call My Bluff (69690) 12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (94874) 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (24416) 1.30 Regional News; Weether (86632665). 1.40 Neighbours Ruth faces a professional

dilemma (T) (65312481) 2.05 Ironalde A hitman is hired to do away with the canny copper before he can testify at a syndicate trial (r) (7605955) 2.55 Going for a Song (8590110) 3.20 The Weather Show (1) (2094961)

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (7191510) 3.45 Little Monsters (9189961) 3.50 ChuckleVision (8023023) 4.10 See it Saw It (6932495) 4.35 The Wild House (1664597) 5.00 Newsround (5401226) 5.10 Blue Peter (6534481)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (703435) 6.00 Skr O'Clock News; Weather (I) (481) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (961) 7.00 Wildlife on One Intimate portrait of a pack of wild wolves living in the Canadian Arctic, showing how the family copes with the harsh conditions (f) (T) (9058)

7.30 Dream House The walls of the home are erected in time for Carol Vorderman to take a tour of the building, while Adam Woodyatt rates the best and worst lawnmowers on the market (1) (145)

8.00 Changing Rooms Neighbours in South Wales are challenged to revamp a room in each other's houses (T) (8706) 8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home The actor Simon Callow introduces his ex-Battersea resident Lutcher (T) (972139)

8.50 National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (T) (947058) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (5077)



9.30 The X Files Mulder and Scally recall their own version of events leading to the death of an alleged teenage vamptre. With Gillian Anderson and Devid Duchovny (T) (662394) 10.15 Don't Call Us Documentary tracing the

history of the talent show (T) (809023) Confessions of the Cheshire Set insight into the lives of Cheshire's high-society slite (1) (708955) 11.40 in the Deep Woods (TVM 1992)

Mystery thrillier, starting: Rosanna Arquette as a Chitren's author drawn into the search for a victous serial killer. With Anthony Perkins. Directed by Charles Correll (1) (414752) 1.10am Weather (4811153) 1.15 BBC News 24 (59886714)

3302 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show

Tales of the Tooth Pairies (8992923) 7.05 Teletubbles (2967400) 7.30 Yog's Treasure Hunt (3919232) 7.55 The Really Treasure Hunt (3919232) 7.55 The Really Wild Show (2248394) 8.13 Flewind (8713961) 8.15 Taz-Mania (5749145) 8.40 Polica Dot Shorts (8242435) 8.50 Brum (8248619) 9.00 Daylinae On Two: Environment (7168690) 9.10 What? Where? Why? (7082225) 9.25 The Art (6507706) 9.45 Words and Pachures (8272042) 10.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies (16955) 10.30 Daylinae On Two: Numbertime (5848226) 10.45 Cats Eves (5838481) 11.00 Around Scotland Eyes (5836481) 11.00 Around Scotland (1566590) 11.20 The Geography Programme (6410771) 11.40 Science in Action (2242313) 12.90pm Revista (4083961) 12.15 Hallo aus Bertin (9396313) 12.30 Working Lunch (92416)

1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (2428752) 2.10 Sporting Greats (22229348) 2.40 Mews; Weather (T) (8982313) 2.45 Westminster (T) (6873110)

3.55 News; Weather (1) (9680145)
4.00 That's Entertainment, Part Two (1976)
Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly introduce a compilation of MGM musical and comedy highlights (T) (9435) 6.00 Star Treic: The Next Generation Alien

historiane arrive to conduct research on the crew-(r) (1) (536597) 6.45 Buffy the Vempire Stayer Buffy battles a giant-praying mantis (1) (930684) 7.30 Tales from the Riverbank Insight into the life-cycle of a salmon as it journeys along Scotland's rivers (r) (T) (767)

8.00 Battle of the Sexes Insight into "girl power" in the animal kingdom (T) (6348) - 8.30 Home Front Tips on creating a mock period dining room (T) (2955)



An armed officer of the Merseyside Police Force (9pm)

9.00 Mersey Blues New series offering an insight into the work of Merseyside Police (1) (431110) Blood on the Carpet New series. Investigations into dodgy dealings in the commercial world (1/6):(1) (285394)

snight (1) (325771) 11.15 Trial by Jury The jury hear Mark's lover give evidence (3/3) (1) (556329) 11.55 Weether (748416) 12.00 Despetch Box (48443)

12:30em BBC Learning Zone: Open
University: The Birth of Liquid Crystals
1.00 Hidden Visions 1.30 Ufelines 2.00
Schools: The IT Collection 4.00 — Part 2, 5.00 Business and Training: Voluntary Matters — Achieving Your Aims ,5.30.20 Steps to Better Management — The Art of Influence 5.45 Open University. Immigration, Prejudice and Ethnicity 6.35
The Passionate Statistician

5.30am ITN Morning News (92684) 6.00 GMTV (6897690) 9.25 Trisha (T) (3661961)

10.30 This Morning (T) (24165771) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (9389139) 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (I) (16042) 1.00 Next Stop Richard Wyati, Polly Lloyd and correspondents are in Wootton Bessett, Wittshire, where they review local

developments (46684) 1.30 Home and Away Sam feels unwanted (1) (15313)

2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (1) (2902145) 2.45 Supermarkst Sweep (1) (173455) 3.15 ITN News Headlines (1) (2099416) 3.20 HTV News (1) (2096329) 3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2906752) 3.35

Teddybears (8528874) 3.45 Jumenii (8464684) 4.10 Whizziwig (9500955) 4.40 Mad for it (7112787)

5.10 A Country Practice Perce has a problem (6800918) 5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (1) 5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (381503) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (563665) 6.25 HTV Weather (915619)

6.30 The West Tonight (1) (329)

stand (T) (1226) 7.30 Coronation Street Les looks for a roof over his head (T) (313)



Sig-prize game show (1) (3874) 8.30 Police, Camera, Action! Alastai Stewart focuses on car theft (r) (1) (9481) 9.00 Garages From Heli Car-owners

convinced they've been ripped off by unscrupulous mechanics get the chance to see their worst suspicions confirmed in this one-off documentary (1) (2619) 10.00 News at Ten; Weather (1) (62787) 10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (454665) 10.40 The Big Match Highlights of tonight's FA

Cup third-round replays (21395329) 12.15am Fatal Deception: Mrs Lee Harvey Stammo Helena Bonham Carter as the wife of JFK's alleged assassin. With Frank Whaley and Robert Picardo. Directed by Robert Domhelm (168658)

1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (2188240) 2.40 Masterclass The art of songwriting (2/9) (9561801) 3.10 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (1) (3225424) 4.15 Picking the Fruit The Making of Still Crazy Behind the scenes of the comedy

4.40 Soundtrax Cutting-edge sounds (88442530) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (25605248) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (40462)

film (r) (95889153)

As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30pm Central News (6088787) 1.00 Echo Point (46684)

1.30 The Jamy Springer Show (9937042) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (605464) 3.20-3.25 Central News (2096329) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6800918) 6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (506961) 10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (454665 4.05am Central Jobfinder '99 (89589

5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (4242153)

As HTV West except: 12.15-12.27pm West

(9399139) 12-27-12-30 Illuminations (6096706) 1.00 Emmerdale (46684) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9937042) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (605464) 3.20-3.25 Westcountry News, Westing (2096329)

5.08 Birthday People (8520936) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6800918) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (97961) (454665)

As HTV West except: (9399139)

1.00-1.35 Shortland Street (1252110) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6800918) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (357) 6.30-7.00 Birdwatch (329) 10.30-10.40 Meridian News; Weather

5.00-5.30am Freescreen (40462)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6994394) 12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (6088787) 1.00-1.35 Upshod (r) (8800918) 6.23 Anglia Weather (916346) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (T) (506961) 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (625058) 10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather (T) (454665)

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (21700955) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (47095690) 9.00 7 Sgolion: Anloine De Caunes Tour de France (16590936) 9.30 Rata-Tat-Tat (39623690) 9.45 Book Box (89628145) 10.00 Stage Two Science (35798956) 10.15 All About Us (35884706) 10.30 The French Programme (17366329) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (93976597) 11.00 Dwr Aer Tir (18082400) 11.15 Tacking Technology (18052023) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (24951145) 12.00pm Bewitched (I) (16503400) 12.30 Sesame Street (38678874) 1.00 Planed Plant; (I) Flwrdd a ni (54449348) 1.15 Milli (54437503) 1.30 FILM: The Bishop's Wife (T) (99962955) 3.30 Hampton Court Palace (1) (56285481 4.00 Fifteen-to-One Highlights (T

Ricki Lake (1) (56293400) 5.00 Planed Plant (27680990) 5.30 Countdown (1) (56284752) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (1) (69163042) 6.10 Heno 6.00 Newyoldion 6 (1) (69163/042) 6.70 Premo (1) (95872139) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (1) (72539446) 7.30 Newyoldion (1) (56374329) 8.00 Ffermio (1) (21280954) 8.30 Pacio (81084351) 9.00 ER (r) (1) (77352634) 10.00 Brookside (1) (54052042) 10.35 ER (r) (1) (36335139) 11.30 Mark Thomas Comedy Product (35705961) 12.00am Comedy Product (35705961) 12.00am Charles Megzanotite (98728511) 12.35 Football Italia: Mezzanotte (66161646) 3.00 Trans World Sport (18445240) 4.00 Diwedd PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

CHANNEL 4 6.00am Secame Street (65042) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (41139)

doing the talking?

9.00 Schools: French Express (76936) 9.30 Pat-a-Tat-Tat (8279955) 9.45 Book Box (8267110) 10.00 Stage Two Science (9569348) 10.15 Alf About Us (9479771) 10.30 Channel Hopping (3221706) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (2660139) 11.00 First Edition VI (6401023) 11.15 Tackling Technology (6597874)

11.30 Powerhouse (1) (6752) 12.00 Sesame Street (1) (89400) 12.30pm Bewitched (T) (14684)

1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights of the show's first series (r) (T) (44226) 1.30 Roots to Success (T) (86649955)
1.45 Wee Willie Winkle (1937) A widow and her young daughter move to a British Army outpost in India. Staring Shirley

Temple, C. Aubrey Smith and June Lang Directed by John Ford (7) (77537058) 3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (435) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (482)

4.30 Countdown (T) (1658936) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (4769394) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (706)

6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue Chat and cookery with special guests Lorraine Ketly and Michelle Collins (7) (95503) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (1) (274145) 7.50 Gilbert and Sullivan: The Very Models The effects of The Mikado's success on the writing duo (1) (810145)

8.00 Brookside Luke is under suspicion (T) 8.30 The Real Holiday Show True-life tales of vacation highs and lows, including a career woman's singles break and a group of Essex lads keen to show off their speed boat in Majorca (8/8) (T) (7023)

9.00 ER Ross comes under fire for his one-night stand with a medical student, then lays his career on the line by taking controversial action to save a child's life George Clooney and Anthony Edwards star (r) (T) (3961)

10.00 ER Ross visits his estranged father, leaving the emergency unit jam-packed with women in labour (r) (T) (4648961)



series of topical comedy (11.05pm)

11.05 Mark Thomas Comedy Product Nev series. Topical observations from cornedy writer Mark Thomas, featuring stand-up performances and ludicrous real-life hoaxes (T) (915706) 11.30 Comedy Lab Jason Byrne (74135) 12.00 Board Stupid (r) (5661578)

12.35am Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up of last week's action (34681004) 3.00 Trans World Sport Global action (36191)

4.00 Submarine Patrol (1938) Comedy adventure, starring Preston Foster as a disgraced US Navy officer put in charge of a run-down wooden vessel and its motley crew during the First World War.

series of mini-soaps in which owners of rat-infested apartments re-enacted their battles with their unwanted guests: most lost. One exterminator from New York's Bureau of Pest Control told Lewis: I've seem some that were the size

that's just empty New York brag-ging: in London we've been seeing rats the size of Cabinet ministers.

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (7900145) 7.00 WideWorld Part four. How marine creatures have evolved (r) (T) (9005348)

7.30 Milkshakel (4659351) 7.35 Wimzie's House (r); 5 News Update (9729961)

8.00 Havakazoo (r) (1096752) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update

9.00 Hot Property (r) (1) (2772435) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4794690) 9.30 The Oprati Wintrey Show (6455597) 10.20 Sunset Beach Caitlin leaves Cole (T) (2126145)

11.10 Leeza (r) (2933771) 12.00pm 5 News at Noon (I) (1006139) 12.30 Family Affairs Jamie leaves home (r) (T); 5 News Update (9872868) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful James

offers Sheila a place to stay (T) (9004619) 1.30 The Roseanne Show The outrageous comedienne chats with Joan Collins; 5 News Update (9871139) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (6292139)

2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment, featuring word game Cryptogram, real-life soap Liverpool Mums and Setting News Update (4557503)

3.30 Joe Dancer: The Big Trade (TVM 1981) The private investigator attempts to unravel the truth behind the mystenous killing of a rising movie star on the set of his latest film. Thriller, starring Robert Blake. Directed by Reza Badiyi (9568394)

5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (6017023) 6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz

6.30 Family Affairs Annie confesses her true elings (1) (5137400) 7.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories, including First on Five (T)

7.30 Champions of the Wild Dr Colin Chapman's efforts to save Uganda's (T): 5 News Update (5133684)

8.00 Wing and a Prayer New series of the hard-hitting legal drama. Kate Buffery, George Irving and Dominic Mafham star (1/8) (T); 5 News

9.00 Hostile Force (1996) A petry criminal organises a bank heist, but falls for a former policeworman he takes hostage during the raid - will their new-found love prevent her from foiling his plan? Action thriller, starring Andrew McCarthy, Cynthia Geary and Wolf Larsen. Directed Michael Kennedy (T); 5 News Update (12243936)

10.50 Not Melinda's Big Night In With ara-Palmer Tomkinson (3451706) 11.30 Strange Luck Chance helps a would-be hockey star shake off the gangsters threatening to kill his father (9701416)

12.25am NHL: American Ice Hockey Phoenix Coyotes at Buffalo Sabres (48630733) 4.40 Club Class Cornedy show (r)

(72542608)5.05 Move on Up (r) (85529849)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (4659135)

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• For further listings see

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SKY ONE

7.00am Court Duckda (83139) 7.30-Cints Exers (85348) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (19054) 9.00 Selly Jesey Raphael (9777) 10.00 Oprah Winters (84058) 11.00 Gulbyl (71394) 12.00pm Jenny Jones (85771) 1.00 Mad About You (75110) 1.30 Jeopardy (42435) 2.00 Selly Jessy (Raphael (8564) 3.00 Jenny Jones (44329) 4.00 Gulbyl (50338) 6.00 Marred with Children (3313) 6.30 Friends (4665) 7.00 Symptons (1966) 7.30 Symptons (8077) 8.00 Symptons (1967) 7.30 Symptons (81394) 10.00 Reports (51665) 7.10 Symptons (51665) 7.10 Symptons (51665) 11.20 Symptons (1820) 1.30 Long Play (5966820) SKY BOX (DFFICE SKY BOX OFFICE

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 20)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)

GH.Jane (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 69), Baddy (1997)
Starahlp Troopers (1997)
Sty SEX OFFICE 4 (Transporter 58) One Might Stand (1997) FILMPOUR

6.00pm The Manigator: A Miceleval Ody-say (1989) (7288139) a.00 Taselve Mon-leve (1985) (55412394) 10.15 La Jetse (1982) (6989819) 10.48 The Hamster Tackery and Other Tales of Twelve Mostlers, (5980) (6162059) 12.15 am Hame Alter Time (1980) (1863191) 2.10 Speniator, the Monkey (1986) (2162089) 1880-1980 Haddanes of King George (1980) (5080) 6.00 Close SKM PRICENTER SKYPREMER

6. 1886 | 1886 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 | 1887 |

(880145) 11.50 The Abyes (1989) (18031981) 2.10em Delensolven (1997) (503066) 2.55 Cerriers (1997) (89162289) SKY MOVIEMAX

SKY MOVIEMAX
5.30sth Time to Say Goodbye? (1997)
(84787) 7.50. UK Top 10 (7445) 7.30
Ferrines Fatales (8539139) 8.15 Movie
Magic (278698) 9.00 Loirestruck (1998)
(53401) 11.00 End of the Golden Weather (1992) (95869) 1.00pm UK Top 10
(73708) 1.30 Ferrines Fatales (8482787)
2.15 Movie Magic (3888399) 5.00 The Big
Genre (1995) (90415) 5.00 End of the
Golden Weather (1992) (1923) 7.00
Lovestruck (1996) (8177) 820 Che Hot
Summer Night (1997) (93313) 11.00
Coher (1996) (4254912) 230em Flesh and
Blood (1995) (425695) 233 The Effect
of, Gammin Rays on Man-le-the-Moon
Martigolds (1972) (82849) 4.15 The Big
Cathe (1995) (42600) SKY CINEMA

(4.00pm Cby That Never Sheeps (1853) (8718752) 8.00 Magic Town (1947) (739635) 8.00 Meritir Meinaders (1962) (7391110) 10.00 For a Few Dollars More (1966) (32135482) 12.10em Alice Ocean't Live Here Anymore (1974) (8643153) 2.05 - The Magos (1966) (4584848) 4.05 Anne of Windy Poplars

9.00pm Soussbody Up There Likes. Me (1866) (36711110) 11.15 Hearts of the West (1873) (14745345) -1.15am The Ligotidator (1966) (60510153) 3.00 Somebody Up There Likes No (1955) (59782612) 5.00 Close SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre 7.15 Wresting 8.15 7.00am Spots Centre 7.15 Wresting 8.15
Spots Centre 8.30 Recing News 2.00
Aerobics 9.30 You're On Sky Sporter 10.00
Total Sport 10.30 Inside Scottish Football
11.30 Fastrax 12.00pm Aerobics 12.30
Redmetton 2.30 World Windsusting 3.00
anside Scottish Football 4.00 Superbouts
5.00 Wresting 9.00 Sports Centre 6.30
Unbetweethe Sports 7.00 World Pool
1eagus 8.00 Ringside Bowrg 9.30 Unbetweethe Sports 10.00 Sports 0.70 Tentre 10.15
You're On Sky Sports 12.45 World Pool
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You're On Sky Sports 12.30 2.00am
You're On Sky Sports 12.30 FA Our
Footbal Special 2.00 Ringside Boding 3.30 SKY SPORTS 2

7.00mm Aerobica 7.30 Live Cholest 11.00 V-Max 11.30 Sports Unlimited 12.30pm Total Sport 1.00 Cholest 3.00 Golf Edita 8.00 Westersports World 7.00 Live FA Cup Footbell 10.00 Golf Edita 1.00em European Tour Golf Weekly 1.30 Watersports World Tour Golf Weekly 1.30 Waters 2.30 Sports Centre 2.45 Close SKY SPORTS 3

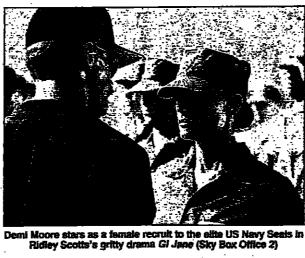
12.00pm: Wrestling 1.00 Fish TV 2.00 Superbouts 3.00 Olympic Series: Road to Nagario 3.80 Reiting 4.30 Figure Skating 8.30 European Tour Golf Weekly 7.00 Fish TV 8.00 International Cocket 10.00 Sky Sports Classes Gold Cricket 11.00 Football The Enertainness 11.30 Close EUROSPORT 7.30mm Raily 8:00 Snowboerding 9:00 Live Bisthion :10:00 'Alpine Sking 10:30 Live Women's Bisthion :11:30 Raily 12:00pm Bisthiot 1:30 Footbell 3:30 Deutsion 5:00 Snowboarding 6.00 Speedwork Strongman 8.00 Darts 9.30 Raily Board 11.00 Security

11.00 Speedworld 12.00em Ruly UK GOLD

7.00gm Crossneds 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EsstEnders 8.30 The Bill 9.00 The Bill 9.30 The House of Eloil 10.30 Angels 11.00 Datas 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Juliet Bravo 2.00 Datas 2.55 The Bill 3.25 The Bill 3.55 EastEnders 4.30 Angels 5.00 All Creatures Great and Straff 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 May to December 7.40 k Ain't Hair Hot, Mum 8.20 Yes, Minister 9.00 Core Foot in the Grave 9.40 Jonathan Creek 10.55 Franch and Secondary 11.35 The Bill 12.05am The Bill 12,35 Backup 1,30 Harry's Kingdom 3.00 Shopping with Screenshop GRANADA PLUS 8.00em Within These Walts 7.00 On the Suses 7.30 Dector in the House 8.00 That's New 830 Second Thoughts 9.00 Classic Compation Street 8.30 Emmercials Farm 10.00 tietysometring 11.00 Hawaii

Feen 14,00 Bangsoneumg 11,00 Teach Feen 12,00 pm Cassic Choreaton Street 12,30 Emmandals Ferm 1,00 Nearest and Desired 1,30 Waarching 2,00 thinsome-thing 3,00 Tile Love Boat 4,00 The Sent 5,00 Hassai Five-Q 6,00 Emmandale Farm 6,30 Cleans Coronaton Street 7,00

Hogan's Heroes 11.00 Man and Motors 6.00em Bear in the Big Blue House 6.25 Classic Toons 6.35 Gummi Bears 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 101



Daimatians 8.00 Goof Troop 8.25 Clar Toons 8.45 New Adventures of Winne the Pooh 9.00 The Adventures of Soot 9.05 Poon 9.00 The Advertures or Spot Nuts. Arvinal Shift 9.15 Pooled Dragons 9.30 Bear in the Big Blue Houce 9.55 The Toodbrush Family 10.00 Bes See 10.10 Tols TV 10.30 Big Garage 10.45 PS and J Otter 11.00 Sesame Steet 12.00pm The Tots: TV 10.30 Big Garage 10.45 PB and J Other 11.00 Sesame Steet 12.00pm The Adventures of Spot 12.05 Ammel Shelf 12.15 Pocket Daspors 12.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothbush Family 1.06 Bits Sce 1.15 Tots TV 1.30 Big Garage 1.45.PB and J Otter 2.00 Queck Pack 2.30 New Adventures of Winnie the Poch 3.00 The Little Marmaid 3.30 Am Assack 4.00 101 Dalmattans 4.30 Hercutes The TV Show 5.00 Reviews 5.15 Peoper Ann 1.30 Same Sup 6.00 Ten Annel 6.50 Brow 1.30 Smart Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Maeis World 7.00 Honey I Shurak the Rods: The TV Show 7.50 Classic Toons 6.00

FILM: Muppet Treasure Island (1996) 9.35 Home Improvement 10.00 Dinosauts 10.30 The Wonder Years 11.00 Touched by FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00mm Power Rangers Turbo 7.00 Mortal

Komost 7-25 Oggy and the Cookmaches 7-30 Donkey Kong County 8.00 Goose-burge 8.25 Sam and Mex 8.35 Spiderrean 8.60 X-Men 9.25 Farstasc Four 9.50 The Incredible Hult 10.18 Casper 10.30 Oggy and the Cookmaches 10.55 The Mouse and the Mexical 41 St. Caldformaches and the Monder 11.05 EaklStreengartz and the Mongter 11.06 EeldStmangartza 11.30 Lile with Louis 11.55 Home to Rent 12.05pcm S_am and Max 12.30 Dorkey Kong Country 1.00 Mough 1.25 Ace Ventus 1.80 Spiderman 2.15 X-Men 2.40 Fantastic Four 3.05 The Incredible Hulk 3.80 Roy and Lea's Big Ride 3.35 Mongl 4.50 Home to Rent 3.00 Gooseburings 5.25 Eerle, Indiana: The Other Dimension 5.25 Cook and the Codemoches 5.55 Donkey Oggy and the Cockroaches 5.55 Donkey Kong Country 6.25 Sem and Max 6.50

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MICHELOUSEON

Modern Life 7.00 CatDoag 7.30 Rugrats
8.00 The Wild Thombarrys 8.30 Arthu 9.00
CSSC 10.00 Winner's House 10.30 Baber
11.00 The Magic School Bus 11.30 PB
Sear etc 12.00pm Rugrats 12.30 Blue's
Clues 1.00 Bananas in Pypamas 1.30 Little
Bear Stones 2.00 Clangers etc 2.30
Craidren's BBC 3.30 Pipp Lungstochte
4.00 Hey Amold 4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Seter
Seter 5.30 Keran and Kel 6.00 Sebres
6.30 Driven Crazy 7.00 Close

"YS-Al Ital E TROUBLE

7.30em Cay Guys 8.00 Saved By The Belt The New Class 8.30 Hang Time 9.00 Tempesti 10.00 Hollyoals 10.30 Echo Porn 11.00 Sweet Valley High 11.30 Californa Dreams 12.00pm The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air 12.30 in the House 1.00 Tempesti 2.00 Hollyoals 2.30 Echo Porn 3.00 Ready or Not 3.30 Crty Guys 4.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air 4.30 in the House 5.00 Saved by the Belt The New Class 5.30 Sweet Valley High 6.00 Hang Time 6.30 Sweet Valley High 6.00 Hang Time 6.30 Stact 7.00 USA High BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team 9.00 LAP.D 9.30 Cops 10.00 Scary Ser 10.30 Eroic Stores 11.00 FBM: Red Scorpion 2 (1994) 1.00am Se. Bytes 1.30 Scary Ser 2.00 Ecreme Championship Wresting 2.30 Cops 3.00 FBM: Best of the Best (1999) 5.00 5.00 LAP D 5.30 Bushedo 6.00 Close PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clusiess 7.30 Desmond's 8.00 Roseanne 8.30 News Radio 9.00 Cyo8 9.30 Vc Riseves Big Night Out 10.00 Frenser 10.30 Cheers 11.00 Seelest 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show 12.00em Lais Might with David Letterman 1.00 Taxi 1.30 The Child of the Night of The Crisc 2.00 Dr Kerz 2.30 Scep 3.00 Tice THE SCI-FI CHANNEL SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7-30am Boomberg Information Television 8.00 Sightings 9.00 Selftestar Gelactica 10.00 Cusmum Leap 11.00 Dark Shadows 11.30 The Ray Bradbury Thestre 12.00pm Twinght Zone 1.00 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stones 2.30 Mysteries, Megic and Meredes 3.00 Battlester Gelectics 4.00 The

Incredible HuA. 5.00 Sightings 6.00 Time Trax 7.00 Custrum Leap 6.00 The Flash 9.00 PSI Factor - Chronicles of the Para-nomel 10.00 FBLMs Guyver: Dark Hero (1982) 12.00am PSI Factor - Chronicles of the Peranomal 1.00 FBLM: HeB Mountain (1998) 2.55 Sc-Focus 3.00 Twilight Zone 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close HOME & LEISURE

8.00am Today's Gournet 8.30 Graham Kerr 7.00 Craftwise 7.30 The Painted House 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Baby Story 9.00 Simply Parting 9.30 Gardon Rescue 10.00 Garden Doctors 10.30 Rescue 10,00 Garden Doctors 10,30 Cookebou with Greg and Mex 11,00 Two's Country, Get Skick in 11,30 Rex Hunt Reining Adventures 12,00pm Austrelia's Strangest Home Improvements 12,30 Dong II Up 1,00 Our House 1,36 Homelime 2,00 Wood Wizard 2,30 Home Again with Bob Vita 3,00 The Old House with Steve and Norm 3,30 Go Fishing Public Country 10. DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rev Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30 Walker's World 5.00 Flightline 5.30 History's Turning Points 6.00 Animal Doctor 6.30 Hunters 7.30 Beyond 2000 8.00 Arthur C Clarie's Mysterious Universe 8.30
Creatures Faritastic 9.00 History's Mysteries 9.30 History's Mysteries 10.00
Mysteries of the East 11.00 Ferran 12.00am Lost Trespures of the Yangton Valley 1.00 History's Turning Points 1.30 Facilitine 2.00 Close ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Totally Australia 1.00 Nature Watch with Julian Petitier 1.30 Australia Wild 2.00 All Bird TV 2.30 Human/Nature 3.30 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jack Harman's Zoo Life 4.30 Anneal Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Australia Wild 6.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 6.30 Lassie 7.00 Queen Charlotte Izlands 8.00 Animal Doctor 8.30 Horse Tales 9.00 Going Wald 9.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 Crocodie Hanter 11.00 Wildlie ER 11.30 Emergency Vets 12.00mm Close NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Firstoom 7.50 Loteral 8.00 Season of the Salmon 8.30 Lest of the Dancing Bears 9.00 Alyesta. Arctic Wildemass 10.00 Man-Enters of India 11.00 On the Edge An Arctic Secret 12.00am Editerne Earth: On the Trail of Killer Storms

HISTORY **CARLTON FOOD**

9.00mm Food Network Daily 9.30 Food for Thought 18.00 Feasts of the World 10.30 Wornal Thompson Cooks 11.00 What's Cooking? 11.30 Coxon's Michen College 12.00pm Food Network Daily 12.30 Rerospectives 1.30 Food for Thought 1.30 From the Ground Up 2.00 Carbbeen Light 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Surprise 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Surprise Chets 3.30 Coxon's Kitchen College 4.00 LIVING

6.00mm Trry and Crew 6.20 Philbert the Frog 6.30 Johnson and Friends 6.45 Tiny Talea 8.50 Poles Dot Shorts 7.80 Practical Parenting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.30 Callou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.55 Practical Perenting 8.00 Barrey and Friends 8.30 Tiny Tales 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 8.00 Day Show 9.30 The Ressame Show 10.00 The Jany The Researce Show 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Maury Povich 11.40 Brookside 12.10pm Animel Rescue 12.40 Rescue 811 1.10 Special Bahes 1.40 Beyond Beief, Fact or Fiction 2.10 LA Law 3.10 Living Room 4.00 Michael Cole 4.40 Rolanda 5.40 Reachy, Steedy, Cook 6.15 The Jerry Sortinger Shour 2 RE Beach, 811 The Jany Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.00 Murder Call 9.00 FILM: A Kidoapping in the Family (1996) 11.00 Sex Life Down Under 12.00mm Close

5.00am Lolly Pop 8.30 Music Time 8.00 Cus and Abour 8.30 Yoodle-As-Co 7.00 Faith 7.30 News 8.00 India Business Report 8.30 Salaeth 9.00 Rishley: The Love Stones 10.00 Sofia 11.00 Asshman 11.30 Parampaca 12.00pm Fillist Grets Newter Wolf Ds 3.00 Zee Bangia 8.30 Put Meuter Wolf Ds 3.00 Zee Bangia 8.30 Hum Paanch 4.00 Campus 4.30 Ex Minute 5.00 Jungle Book 5.30 Gurrath 6.00 Top of the Tops 8.30 Benegi April Bent 7.00 Bast Ban July 7.30 Its My Choice 8.00 News 8.30 Ament 9.00 Hewseth 10.00 New 8.30 Ament 9.00 Hewseth 10.00 New Pelida 12.00m News 12.30 Tendod Messie 1.00 Zee Bangia 1.30 Razhat 2.00 FBLMC Tamil Movie: Shengotal 4.30 Val No Vatessan

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BOWLS 38

Yellow fever takes firm hold on Norfolk coast

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SAILING 39 Ainslie stays on course for world title



WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 1999

Three miles in front, the finish in sight, a runner staggers into history









Wright faces six weeks on the

IAN WRIGHT may be forced to cancel his chat show this week because of a serious knee injury, but the nation is expected to cope. Whether West Ham United will survive his absence for what could be a protracted period is another

matter entirely.
The immediate concern, after Wright collapsed suddenly in training yesterday, is their treacherous FA Cup thirdround replay away to Swan-sca City tonight. Short of play-ers and morale, they will face the team from the Nationwide League third division with mounting trepidation.

There are also more significant worries in the longer term, not just at club level. With Wright likely to be absent for at least six weeks after he underwent surgery last night. Glenn Hoddle, the England crach, will also be concerned as he plans for a match against France, the world champions. and subsequent European championship qualifiers.

Wright saw a specialist yesterday and an exploratory op-eration is believed to have shown that his cartilage required surgery, ruling him our

THE marriage proposed be-tween Bristol and London

Scottish was halted vesterday

After a day of discussion in-

the implications of the propos-

That will give supporters of

als were examined further.

BY MATT DICKINSON

sidelines with knee injury

it a go in training, but it locked again. It is a terrible blow to until March. However, there are also fears that ligaments lose someone of his quality. have been damaged, which would mean a longer spell of The 35-year-old will be hoping that he will be fit enough to recuperation. Wright was injured in the sit on the studio couch on Thursday night, when this week's Friday Night's All Wright is due to be filmed. A

early stages of the 1-1 draw with Swansea at Upton Park and Harry Redknapp, his manager, said last night. The knee has been locking up on him ever since. He thought he would be OK and tried to give



Paul Kitson and Javier Margas already ruled out of the replay. The club has also been plagued by poor form recent-ly, with John Hartson appearine to be listless and the subject of transfer speculation. Redknapp is tied by a lack of funds, but he is hoping to se-cure Scott Minto, the left back, from Bentica in a deal worth

spokeswoman for London

Weekend Television said it

was awaiting medical reports. Wright, who missed West

Ham's 4-1 defeat at Manches-

ter United on Sunday, joins a

lengthening injury list at Up-ton Park with Marc Keller.

up to El million this week. The squad is so thin that Joe Cole, the much-heralded teenage midfield player, will be in the squad to face Swaninto regular action sooner than Redknapp had hoped. The injury situation has probably pushed it on us a bit, but it's not a problem."

Redknapp said. West Ham suffered their fourth successive away deleat in the league at Old Trafford and Redknapp knows that his club's chances of qualifying for Europe via a favourable FA Carling Premiership place are receding. The FA Cup re-mains their best hope, but they face a tricky test tonight.

Another upset is possible at Craven Cottage, where Fulham have already beaten Southampton in the second round of the Worthington Cup this season. "It'll be a hard game," David Jones, the Southampton manager, said, "but

we'll be going at it with all guns blazing."

Southampton moved up to eighteenth place in the FA Carling Premiership with a 3-1 vic-tory against Charlton Athletic at The Dell and Jones said: "Hopefully, we could be turning the corner at last."

FA to buy Wembley, page 27 Fener's lead role, page 41

Wright operation sea and is likely to be pressed London Scottish merger put on ice

SOLUTION TO NO 1612 ACROSS: 1 Proust 4 Sprout 8 Cosy 9 Analysis 10 First Lady 13 Ashen 15 Union 16 Futon 18 Cassandra 21 Skeleton 22 Chop 23 Oblong 24 Stupor DOWN: 1 Pacify 2 Obstruct 3 Trawl 5 Pollyanna 6 Oust 7 Tuscan 11 Truncheon 12 Amiss 14 Hardship 16 Fiasco 17 Tamper 19 Sinus 20 Fell

No 1613

l Sect: fashionable (eg TV

2 Hail with enthusiasm (7)

7 Primate related to Man (7)

8 Crazy (but likeable) (4.2,1.5)

18 Those offered in betting (4)

3 Fall. fail badly (4.1.7)

4 Count up: consider (6) 6 — Jones, architect (5)

12 Put (into eg bank) (7)

15 Nasal outburst (6)

17 Substantives (5)

14 Makes reference (to) (7)

series) (4)

ACROSS

5 Well off (4)

9 Doctor's deputy (5) 10 Skull (7)

Wooster (3-5-4)

12 Coy, chaste (6)

(4-4,4)

19 Compress (?)

1 Canterbury Tales poet (7)

13 One as Barbados, Tasmani

(6) 16 One batted across table

21 President of the Immortals sported with her (Hardy) (4)

20 Reversed; loosened (5)

22 Diana temple city (7)

THE SEATIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW ANAILABLE ns Crosswords (Bank 7-1209) The Thirs Crosswards (Bank 3) Crosses (Loss the Crosswards Bank 3 is available to Times readers for joy 4 (ERP) 1994 while sup

The Times Two Consecutes passes are available to Times analysis by passes are as a final plants from the Times beauting the Times beauting the times beauting the times beauting the times beauting the Consecute Lawrence and the times are times to the times are times to the times the times the Times Bookstory offer the times the Times Bookstory of the times the times the Times Bookstory of the times times the times the times the times the times the times the times times the times the times times the times times the times times the times times the times times the times times the times times the times times the times times to time times the times times the times times times times the times times times times times times to time times times times to time times tim

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

sence from Allied Dunbar Presome steps short of the aliar. miership matches has been instrumental in persuading Tivolving Nick de Scossa, the arks to look elsewhere, to dem-Bristol chief executive, and onstrate on behalf of their Tony Tiarks, chairman of Lonclub at Welford Road, where don Scottish, together with the endes play Leicester. kading figures from English Elaine Watterson, the presi-First-Division Rugby, both clubs announced that their dent of the supporters' association, has been inundated with scheduled fixtures on Saturmessages from members disday would take place while mayed at the prospect of their chub's name disappearing from the top tier of the game. Tiarks acknowledged that London Scottish, whose ab-Bristol, the leaders of the sec-

Wakefield on Saturday, had made an offer (believed to be worth £1 million) for a 100 per cent shareholding in London Scottish Rugby Club Ltd as a way of ensuring a place among the clite, which its offcials believe could be denied them by the machinations of first division owners intent on an exclusive Anglo-Welsh league next season. Indeed, the English second division clubs, meeting in Birming-

the formation of either an Anglo-Welsh or a British league. seeking instead to preserve the integrity of the Premiership. The Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) indicated that there would be no cash support for London Scottish from north of the border, even while they acknowledged the exiles' outstanding contribution to inter-national rugby. "We have a strategy in place ... part of which is designed to encour-

age players to come back and

play their rugby in Scotland." Bill Watson, the SRU chief ex-

Jim Peters, 1950s icon, dies aged 80

By JOHN GOODBODY

final lap of the 1954 Empire Games marathon in the searing heat of Vancouver, he had a lead of more than three miles. Glory was in sight, but, as the crowd rose to acclaim him, Peters faltered and began on stagger. He never crossed the finishing line, but his valiant, agonising efforts to cover the final few yards made an unforgettable sight, carried to will be a Marietana Marie millions on Movietone News.

Peters, whose death at the age of 80 on Saturday was announced yesterday, never ran in a significant competition again, but his place in British sporting history was secure. In the course of his marathon career, Peters had broken the world best four times, but, when he entered the stadium in Vancouver, he was suffering from the effects of his fast early pace in temperatures of 75F. Dehydrated, he fell about six times and began crawling

Among his anguished Britwere Roger Bannister and Chris Brasher, who later founded the London Marathon. No one dared to assist Peters in his distress, remembering that Dorando Pietri, of Italy, had been disqualified in 1908 when helped across the line at the London Olympic Games. It was only when it was clear that Peters was not going to finish that they went to his aid. The eventual winner was Joe McGhee, of Scotland, whose victory has been almost forgotten.

Eventually, an English medical official put an end to his suffering by clasping him to his chest and leading him to the safety of a medical centre. However, although the effort ended the career of Peters, he became, like Pietri, more celebrated in defeat than in his victories in the 1950s.

gripped the imagination of the British public in cinemas across the country - 1954 was

WHEN Jim Peters started the before the Games (now the Commonwealth Games) were televised extensively. They also... empathised with his statement. I was completely bewildered, but I just did not wa disgrace my wife and kiddles.

Even in the medical centre, be asked, in his pain, whether he had won, only to have the sympathetic reply from a murse you did very well. Peters suf-fered in the race because, at that time, it was not realisedthat marathon runners needed to drink regularly to avoid

> David Bedford, the international race director of the London Marathon, said yesterday: "Im was a class runner. when marathon running, unlike today, was unfashionable. He trained harder than most often 100 miles a week with his thousands of miles run in plunsoles. My first memories of him were from newspaper pictures showing him collapsing when in sight of the finish."

Bedford, the former 10,000 metres world record holder. whose own training in the 1970s was applauded by Pethemselves to such exhaustion as Jun did at those Games." Peters had been a "worthy"

member of the 19-strong London Marathon Club, which is restricted to those British competitors who have won medals at leading championships or set world bests. He was a pioneer of long-distance running in the 1950s. After firishing mith in the 1948 Olympic 10,000 metres be concentrated on the marathon and in 1954, shortly before Vancouver, won the Polytechnic marathon in a world best 2hr. 17min 39.4sec

Peters retired from athletics after Vancouver. "I could never forget what I suffered in the stinct," he said.

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